

# THE PINK

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## Reed explains transfer deals

Saints chief speaks - P2/3

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## Eastleigh special



Interview with Spitfires chief exec - P12/13

# 'Saints are stronger'

## Deals to help squad

**LES Reed has been extremely satisfied by the quality of players Saints have been able to bring into the club this summer.**

There have been some high-profile departures from St Mary's in the current window, specifically Morgan Schneiderlin, Nathaniel Clyne and Toby Alderweireld.

But there have been plenty of incomings as well, with five new faces signed.

Reed said: "It was very nice to start the summer by bringing players in."

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Cuco Martina is one of five new signings at Saints this summer, with executive director of football Les Reed happy with the quality of the additions.

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## Saints facing Vitesse test

WHOEVER Saints drew in the Europa League, it was always going to be a special moment for the club - but for Ronald Koeman it was particularly so.

The news that the team will be facing Vitesse in the third qualifying round of the competition means that Koeman will be heading back to where he began his career as a manager.

Saints are due to host the Dutch side in the first leg encounter, on Thursday, July 30, before visiting the GelreDome, in Arnhem, for the conclusion of the tie a week later.

It was Vitesse where Koeman was given his first job as a head coach, working with them from January 2000 until December 2001, meaning the game will hold a certain sentimental value for the 52-year-old.

But it is also the hardest contest



Vitesse's GelreDome Stadium.

Saints could have received on paper, with their opponents the highest-ranked unseeded team that were in the draw.

"It's nice, because it was my first club starting coaching as a head coach and that's nice to come back," said Koeman, in an interview with Saints. "It's ok, it's a good draw. We play against a good team, at least a team who likes to play football and, ok, we will see what happens."

"In the possibilities that we had to draw maybe it's the worst of that, but, ok, that means European League football and we have to show that we are a better team than Vitesse, and for that we have two games."

## Saints director on his transfer philosophy

# Direct approach the key for Reed

**SAINTS' executive director of football, Les Reed, has given a fascinating insight into the philosophy of how the club conducts its transfer business.**

Reed, the man who is responsible for all of the dealings and negotiations at St Mary's, took time out of his schedule to discuss a number of issues relating to Saints' activity in the current window.

One matter he was asked about was how difficult it can be to handle situations where another club's interest in one of their stars is played out largely in the public arena.

"It is very difficult, because there are certain clubs who play that game very blatantly, and it's almost like none of us will rat each other out," said Reed.

"My view is that there is a point where, if the effects of another club interfering with a player's mindset really does start to do damage, then maybe somebody has to make a stand and go 'Hey, you can't do this'."

"I think, to a certain extent, you have to play a bit of a cat and mouse game all the way through, but, at the end of the day, it does unsettle the player and there's a point where if it's gone so far - as we found with one or two of our players last year - you don't want it to unsettle the whole team."

"If one player's unsettled, and he's not going to be happy staying, then you've got a decision to make so it doesn't affect the rest of the squad, and we have a very, very good dressing room."

"We have a very good, tight squad and that's a big contributor to our success, and we can't allow something to affect that, so it does make it difficult and it is tactical, but it is part and parcel of that game as you call it and you have to try and be resilient and manage it as best you can."

Reed insists the approach of leaking information or trying to publicly unsettle players at other clubs is not one he wishes to take.

"We like to go straight to the club," he said. "We like to go club to club for a number of reasons."

"One of them is that we want to be open and



transparent with the other club.

"I found it gets things done quicker. Sometimes all this stuff is unnecessary."

"And the other reason I prefer to go club to club is the goalposts have changed in terms of agents and representation, so you can get four different mandates laid on your desk signed by a player saying 'I mandate this

agent to get me out of the club I'm in', and then you go down that route and the other agent says 'No, that was me', 'No, that was me', and then you end up with agents saying 'I want a cut of that deal', 'I want this', 'I want that'."

"If you go straight to the club then you can cut all of that out, because you get a deal done

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## Saints happy with quality of incomings

From front page...

The summer began with the captures of Juanmi, Cedric Soares, below, and Maarten Stekelenburg, before Cuco Martina and Jordy Clasie.

Reed said: "It started very positively. We brought in three players that we had identified early and we wanted to explore and we managed to get them over the line quite quickly.

"We knew, mainly because of the rumour mill and continuous reports in various media, that there would be interest in one or two of our players again this summer and so you always prepare for that.

"We knew for this campaign we would have to get more depth. We were able to bring in Soares, who was on our radar anyway as the immediate replacement [for Clyne], then Cuco Martina, who can play in a number of positions across the back four, very versatile.

"That meant we now are much



stronger depth wise along the back four, at left back with both Ryan Bertrand and Matt Targett and it means we can handle the Bertrand injury for a short period of time as well.

He added: "It was not something we would plan to do in terms of replacing Fraser Forster, but the injury meant we had to get an experienced keeper, a keeper who has played at the top level, but on the basis that we expect Fraser to be back.

"Whilst we know Maarten didn't have the greatest of times at Fulham, he was at a club where there were three managerial changes and quite a bit of turmoil during that period. It was all unsettled, but we know he is a top class goalkeeper. You don't play in a World Cup final without being a top class goalkeeper."

Reed continued: "We feel with Kelvin [Davis], Maarten and young Gazza [Paulo Gazzaniga] in there, we have some strength.

"Back four and goalkeeper wise we are covered, but with the news that Toby's not coming we have to plug that hole as well. We have targets who we will pursue to make sure we get the right player and then I think defensively we are pretty sound."

with the club, then you speak to the agent and, usually by getting a deal done with the club, you can identify who the real agent is.

"But once you start getting third parties involved in trying to manipulate it and wriggle round it, it just makes the whole process very, very difficult and it can fall apart at the last minute, because you've actually been dealing with the wrong person.

"There are a lot of brokers out there now, who will pretend they represent a club who want to sell a player, and if you jump too quickly into that you can go down blind alleys and so on.

"And that usually – that broker, who's actually not connected with the player – is the one that starts feeding stuff into the press and so on, in an attempt to pressurise the other club to get the deal done, and then go to them and say 'I can get that deal done for you'.

"So that landscape's changed in the last few years and now, with the deregulation of agents, I can see that being a major problem, because what happens now is you get phone calls from people you've never heard of saying 'I'm an agent', or



Saints have sold Morgan Schneiderlin but feel more in control this summer

they give you a business card, saying 'What positions are you looking for?'

"And if you go 'Oh, we need a central defender and a left-back', they will go to a club that's got a central defender and a left-back for sale and say 'I represent Southampton' and then they will pursue you for

a cut of that deal if you buy that player, when it's totally false.

"So, if you like a player, you have to do your homework, which is what we do – we try to build our database and be in advance of it, so we know as best we can who the real agent is, certainly know who are the club contacts – if you go

straight club to club, you avoid all that confusion and therefore that's the way we prefer to operate."

Reed is also pleased that, while this summer has been busy, it has not been as wild as last year's was.

"I think it's not as frantic, it's not as turbulent, and the other side of it is, in addition to raids on our players, there were all sorts of other rumours going around about the future of the club, the ownership, Mauricio [Pochettino]," he said.

"We aren't surrounded by all of that hysteria that we were last year.

"It's more like a normal manic transfer window, because everyone says the same – transfer windows are so unpredictable, because one thing happens and it triggers something else.

"That's why we think we have a good structure in place whereby we plan for all eventualities and therefore we can react quite quickly to things, or we can be quite proactive.

"We have got our ducks in a row, let's move on and like we said last year let's wait until we play Newcastle at the start of the season and at that point we can see if we have been successful or unsuccessful."



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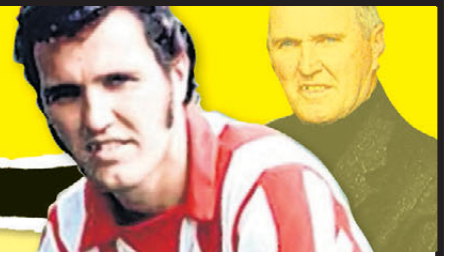


# Paine's World

The Saints legend's

**EXCLUSIVE**

column on all things football



## How do United fit all of these midfielders in?

**FASTER, higher, stronger — the Olympic motto, styled on the values of the Ancient Greeks thousands of years ago.**

Physical prowess coupled with discipline and technique. Not pensive and wishy-washy, like that tiki-taka tosh, but neither is it a brutal display of overwhelming force.

That's the sort of trajectory I imagine the internal monologue of Louis Van Gaal takes. Like how his team can string together 45 passes before lumping it somewhere in the direction of Marouane Fellaini.

You can imagine that Manuel Neuer is probably Louis Van Gaal's perfect physical specimen. He's 6ft3in and broad-shouldered with an aura of discipline.

The next best thing is Bastian Schweinsteiger. Tall and broad, he can pick a pass, find a forward runner, and keep the midfield ticking over.

Then there's Morgan Schneiderlin. A similar player, blessed with technique and bulk. He's not huge, but then he's no Philipp Lahm either. He's classy, but not small, like a Bentley or a Rolls Royce.

No showy Ferraris or Porsches for Van Gaal. He wants style, but he wants miles to the gallon, too. This midfield collection is made up of substance as well as technique.

But how do you fit them all in?

Ander Herrera is a classy passer and a willing midfield runner. Angel Di Maria — though he might be on his way out — is another midfield scurrier these days, no longer at his best on the wing. And if he does stay, Memphis Depay will play in the wide role.

That'll take some of the pressure off the Argentinian and he can perhaps show us what he's really made of.

Then there's Michael Carrick, Fellaini and Juan Mata. A myriad of midfielders all vying for a place in Van Gaal's master plan.

If it were up to me, Carrick would be the first name on the teamsheet. He can do something that no other United midfielder can do: drop behind everyone else and start the game from there.



Morgan Schneiderlin made the switch from Saints to Manchester United this week - but where does he fit in at Old Trafford?

Picking passes from between the central defenders like Ruud Krol, Pep Guardiola or Andrea Pirlo, he does something only an elite group of players can.

If United are going to play a possession game, they need him or someone of his ilk.

So let's presume Van Gaal will continue with four at the back, just as he ended the 2014/15 season. That leaves a central mid-

field three, he could also play two attacking midfielders in the wider roles. If not, then two wingers.

Carrick takes one spot in the midfield — my executive decision.

So, will it be Schweinsteiger and Schneiderlin who fill the final two berths? What about Herrera? Maybe Daley Blind will be utilized at full-back. Maybe Wayne Rooney

up front with Mata and Depay supporting from the left and right.

There's still Antonio Valencia and Ashley Young to think about, and surely another signing up front, too.

I wouldn't be surprised if Van Gaal favours a power and precision approach to next season, and he has the henchmen to do it.



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# Saints Spotlight



## Sylvain on future

CHERRIES veteran Sylvain Distin has no fixed plans to make this season his Premier League swansong – but insists the spectre of retirement holds no fear.

The 37-year-old defender, who signed on a one-year deal at Dean Court recently, was the oldest outfield player to grace the English top flight last season with 13 league appearances for former club Everton.

Distin is the leading foreign outfield appearance maker in the Premier League era on the back of 457 matches across 14 seasons with Newcastle, Manchester City, Portsmouth and the Toffees.

But while the Frenchman, who is manager Eddie Howe's junior by just 17 days, acknowledges time is ticking down on his career, he promised to push the boundaries in his quest to play his part as Cherries start life among the elite.

Distin said: "It is difficult at my age to think about the future. If I was the oldest outfield player in the Premier League last season then clearly, I will be again this time."

"You cannot predict what the future is going to bring, a lot depends on whether I am still enjoying it and whether I can



Sylvain Distin in action against Saints two seasons ago.

still do it physically. There are a lot of parameters not in my hands.

"I need to focus and do what I did last season. After that, I will sit back and reflect on what happened. I will have to decide if the passion is still there and if it is, then why not (continue)?"

"But I am going to be 38.

There are not many players around doing what I am and there is a reason for that.

"You take a look round and see a guy like Tyrone Mings who is 22, a monster and a giant. The players are getting bigger, stronger, faster and better technically at a younger age.

"It is getting harder and harder but I have absolutely no problem with that. I am willing to put in the work.

"It is not going to last forever but I am comfortable with that because I played at the right clubs at the right times and enjoyed myself. It is not something I fear. I am not thinking 'I don't want to stop, I must carry on' because that is not me. I will stop when I feel the time is right."

# TOBY, YOU'VE ONLY

**Let's not beat around the bush – the loss of Toby Alderweireld is a big one.**

But not for the obvious reasons.

He's replaceable, every player is replaceable.

Maybe not this season, maybe not next, but at some stage Southampton Football Club will be over Toby Alderweireld.

The loss comes from the fact that Alderweireld turned us down for all the wrong reasons.

Like every footballer that has ever left a football club, Toby Alderweireld has joined Tottenham Hotspur because they're a "big club" with a "proud history".

If you process it through [www.babbelfootballcliches.com](http://www.babbelfootballcliches.com), that means "I'm joining Tottenham for the money."

Of all the clubs to join, bar Liverpool, no club can annoy us more than Tottenham.

Tottenham represent everything wrong with football.

A club trading on their history, buying whatever success they get and giving nothing back.

"I'm joining Tottenham Hotspur as they have a proud tradition of bringing young talent through their Academy into the first team"

Said no North London kid ever.

Tottenham Hotspur are a show pony. All show and no go.

One trophy in 20 years and that was the League Cup.

Tottenham play at being a big club, they make a big show about their history, but these days Tottenham's only advantage is their location.

## Massive blow

If Tottenham Hotspur were based in Lincoln or Plymouth they'd be nothing.

The only reason they attract players like Alderweireld is because they're based in London and pay big wages.

I've said it before, I'll no doubt say it again, but no footballer in the world has ever joined a club because of what they've won before they got there.

If they say they did, they're lying.

Footballers join clubs for two reasons and two reasons only.

To win stuff and to get paid a big wage.

Toby Alderweireld joined Tottenham for one reason... and it's not to win stuff.

**For Saints, his departure is a massive blow because it just reminds us of the massive job ahead to get the right players in and keep them.**

Toby Alderweireld was the right player in terms of ability; obviously in terms of personality he was most



NEW SPUR: Toby Alderweireld in action at his new White Hart Lane home last October.



definitely not the right player.

He will be missed... for about a season or two.

For Saints, it yet again puts us back to square one.

Against all the odds, we actually improved on last season and finished just below Tottenham and Liverpool.

The truly tragic fact to come out of Alderweireld's transfer to Tottenham is that had he stayed we

would have finished above them.

Had Saints been able to add to last season's squad, then they could have mounted a real challenge for that Champions League place.

As it is, Saints have taken a step or two backwards and face another challenge to just stay where they are, let alone advance on last season.

It's frustrating because whilst everyone will tell you Liverpool and Tottenham are bigger clubs, they

never tell you whether or not they're better clubs.

They might have a better history, they may have won more trophies than us, but none of that matters when the whistle blows on the first game of the season.

## Right vision

In closing, another player leaves, another player comes, it's all part and parcel of the cycle of any football club.

What matters is having faith in the club and believing they have the right vision to move the club on to the next level.

Sadly, it looks as if to take that

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## Saints Spotlight

## GONE FOR MONEY



**FOES NOW FRIENDS:** Toby Alderweireld in action against Tottenham at St Mary's last April.

next step, Saints are going to have to try and compete with clubs like Tottenham and Liverpool in terms of wages.

If we don't we're going to continually live in a state of limbo, getting the right payers in and then losing them to clubs that will more than likely be our level of rivals the next year.

What is the solution?  
Is it to break the bank?

Gamble on getting Champions League football in order to justify the massive wage bill?

The problem you have there is risking the same sort of meltdown Portsmouth suffered five years ago.

Pompey imploded and that just to win an FA Cup final and flirt with the top ten.

For what Saints would like to do, the costs would even greater and the risk just as high.

We stand at a crossroads.

The chances are that unless we get the right player, again, we face a season of fighting to stand still.

### No ambition

To every Tottenham fan and Liverpool fan out there peddling the same old "big club/small club" garbage, I say one thing....

Congratulations. Congratulations on showing no ambition whatsoever.

er.

Whilst the real big clubs such as Manchester City, Manchester United and Arsenal aim to be Chelsea, you aim to be Southampton.

Liverpool have four Southampton first team players, Tottenham have our former manager, our recruitment manager and now our centre back.

All they really need to do is play in red and white stripes and they're there. They are Southampton.

*It's hard to be Saints fan right now.*

We make massive strides forward

only to see clubs with no imagination whatsoever picking away at our success.

Why bother installing an infrastructure, an academy, a state of the art training facility, when all you need to do is buy up other club's hard work?

Congratulations to Liverpool and Tottenham.

Congratulations for seeing what is fast becoming blindingly obvious.

We sang it to Portsmouth fans, we should it sing to the fans of Liverpool and Tottenham fans this season.

"We're coming for you...."

## Tennis lessons

WITH the exception of the Davis Cup showdown at Queen's Club, the end of Wimbledon means the grass-court tennis season is over for another year.

If the sight of Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams doing the champions' slow dance at the post-finals ball was hardly surprising, the All England Club fortnight certainly threw up more than a few memorable moments.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at five things the last two weeks might have taught us about the way the tennis tours are likely to shape up over the next 12 months and more:

### 1. HEATHER HAS IT

Countless players have raised their game against the big guns on Centre Court before falling from grace - but all the indications are that Heather Watson's heroics against Serena Williams were no flash in the pan. The British number one, who at one point held a double break in the deciding set against her illustrious opponent, has risen to 51st in the world rankings as a result of her SW19 run. And even Serena herself has acknowledged the Guernsey-born star is destined to go higher.



### 2. WE NEED NICK

Don't ever say there are not enough characters in the game these days. The Wimbledon antics of young Australian Nick Kyrgios made headline news across the world and his performances proved as baffling for their sporadic brain-freezes as they also did his undoubted brilliance. Right now Kyrgios looks every inch the leader of the next generation of tennis talent, and one thing is for sure: whether he makes it right to the top or not, watching him try is going to be fun every inch of the way.

### 3. GREAT GARBINE

Something about Garbine Muguruza's performances at Wimbledon this year saw her stand out from the crowd of regular pretenders to Serena's throne. Muguruza - who swept aside Williams at last year's French Open - seemed more at home on the grass court than most Spanish players, and the way she rose to the occasion both in her fraught semi-final third set against Agnieszka Radwanska, and in the final against Williams, showed Muguruza is a player who is bound to be back on Centre Court soon.

### 4. ROCKING RAFA

It will take more than a comprehensive defeat to dreadlocked Dustin Brown to write Rafael Nadal's tennis obituary. But as Novak Djokovic continues to take the men's game to new heights, one continues to wonder just how long Nadal will continue to defy his crippling series of knee injuries and be able to consistently mix it with the best on the big occasion. Nadal has served up some of the most exhilarating moments in recent tennis history. The sense is we should all enjoy him while we still can.

### 5. DOUBLE DOUBLES

Martina Hingis' doubles double was one of the great sights of Wimbledon this year and underlined the importance of both disciplines in the tennis - and in particular the Grand Slam - calendar. Hingis and her respective partners Sania Mirza and Leander Paes kept the crowds entertained well into the evening while Jamie Murray's success in reaching the men's final alongside John Peers also served to underline how the different discipline can forge stars from those less suited to the singles arena.

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# Saints Spotlight



## Ranieri so uninspiring

LEICESTER claimed they had acquired "one of the world's elite managers" when they tempted Claudio Ranieri to take up the reins – but one of the Foxes' most famous former players questioned the move.

Italian Ranieri signed a three-year deal to replace ex-Saint Nigel Pearson at the King Power Stadium and added the east midlands club to a long list of employees that includes the likes of Chelsea, Juventus and Atletico Madrid.

However, the vastly experienced 63-year-old, who has been out of work since being dismissed by Greece in the wake of their embarrassing home loss to the Faroe Islands in November, has been labelled an "uninspiring" choice by ex-Leicester striker Gary Lineker.

The television pundit said: "Claudio is clearly experienced, but this is an uninspired choice by Leicester.

"It's amazing how the same old names keep getting a go on the managerial merry-go-round."

The Foxes were keen on recruiting a high-profile boss to succeed Pearson and Martin O'Neill was heavily linked with a return to the club while Guus Hiddink was also tipped to be in the frame.

However, it was another ex-Chelsea manager in his 60s that the Foxes hier-



Claudio Ranieri

archy opted for, bringing Ranieri back to England following his four-year spell at Stamford Bridge between 2000 and 2004.

In explaining Ranieri's appointment, vice chairman Aiyawatt Srivachdanaprabha said: "His achievements in the game, his knowledge of English football and his record of successfully coaching some of the world's finest players made him the outstanding candidate for the job and his ambitions for the future reflect our own."

"To have attracted one of the world's elite managers speaks volumes both for the progress Leicester City has made in recent years and for the potential that remains for the club's long-term development."

Ranieri's 29-year managerial career has spanned five countries and 14 teams but he revealed he had always harboured aspirations of returning to English football's top flight.

The Italian, who earned the nickname "the Tinkerman" during his time in west London due to his penchant for changing his tactics, guided Chelsea to a second-placed finish in the 2003-04 campaign behind Arsenal's 'Invincibles' and was knocked out of the Champions League semi-finals by Monaco.

"I have worked at many great clubs, in many top leagues, but since I left Chelsea I have dreamt of another chance to work in the best league in the world again," Ranieri said.

# SO UNFAIR TO LABEL

**THE Premier League vultures have regularly been seen flying over St Mary's in the past 18 months or so.**

And they haven't just been circling the stadium looking for scraps to feed on, *writes SIMON CARTER.*

No, the greedy lot have been determined to stay on the south coast until they have got their teeth into a particularly meaty chunk.

Hence, the vultures of Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal and Tottenham have flown away content with their 'kill'.

But it hasn't been long before they have returned again, ready to pounce if they see a sign of 'weakness'.

I use that word, because the Daily Mail's very well respected sports writer Martin Samuel called Saints 'weak' in his column earlier this week.

The club were 'weak' because they let themselves become too easy prey for the Premier League vultures.

I enjoy reading Samuel's columns, but it was a cheap shot he aimed at Saints.

I don't think Saints were weak with regards to selling Morgan Schneiderlin for £25m to Manchester United.

That is a serious amount of money, even by a club of United's stature and wealth.

Let's not forget United – who claim to be the biggest club in the world – have only ever splashed out more on ten players.

For the record, they are Angel Di Maria, Juan Mata, Dimitar Berbatov, Rio Ferdinand, Luke Shaw, Wayne Rooney, Ander Herrera, Juan Sebastian Veron, Marouane Fellaini.

## Profit

Louis van Gaal has also spent £25m on PSV Eindhoven winger Memphis Depay this summer.

Yes, Luke Shaw is in that list. The same Luke Shaw who Saints sold to United in 2014.

Were Saints 'weak' with regards to that transfer?

Getting £27m for a teenager?

I think not.

And how 'weak' were Saints when conducting transfer negotiations with the undisputed number 1 vulture, Brendan Rodgers and Liverpool?

£4m for Rickie Lambert. Not a bad figure for a 32-year-old striker, who as last season showed is now past his best.

£20m for Dejan Lovren. A near £12m profit on a player Saints signed just 12 months earlier.

And as we saw last season, Lovren's performances did not merit his huge fee.

Saints paid a Champions League price for a player who helped them into the Europa League.



Manchester United have made Morgan Schneiderlin one of their most expensive signings ever.

£25m for Adam Lallana? At the time the second most expensive player in the Anfield club's illustrious history, behind only mega flop Andy Carroll.

Saints negotiated a deal whereby Liverpool had to pay more for Lallana, a player with two Premier League seasons to his name and a handful of England caps, than they did for the likes of Fernando Torres and Luis Suarez.

Now this summer Rodgers has circled St Mary's once more to pick off Clyne.

Saints received £12.5m for a player they bought for £10m less than that just three years ago.

Good business, really – especially if the player wanted to go.

Then we came to Calum Chambers, sold to Arsenal last

summer for £16m.

That was another huge sum for a teenager with barely half a season of top flight football to his name.

Saints have been accused of becoming a selling club, but while that is undoubtedly true – they HAVE sold a lot of players in the last 16 months – it also deflects attention away from the blindingly obvious.

## Selling club

Apart from the giants of world football, who isn't a selling club?

Liverpool are a buying club, from Saints anyway, but they are also a selling club.

They bought lots of players in the summer of 2014 but sold arguably their best one, Suarez.

This year they have brought in a lot of new players, but that obviously meant little to Raheem Sterling.

United couldn't hold onto Ronaldo six years ago.

Tottenham couldn't hold onto Gareth Bale.

And Arsenal have lost a whole host of players to Manchester City in recent times – Nasri, Clichy, Kolo Toure, Adebayor.

If a player wants to leave, all a club can do is negotiate a good price.

That's what Saints have done.

It's not as if the players who have left have joined Stoke or Leicester or West Ham, is it?

Saints have't sold some of their crown jewels to some average mid-table club for a pittance.

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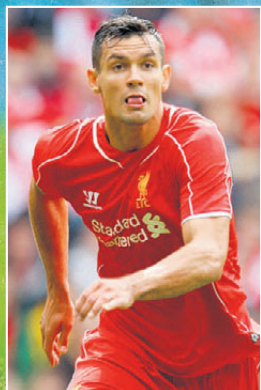


## Saints Spotlight

# SAINTS AS 'WEAK'



Saints got huge fees for Adam Lallana and, inset, Dejan Lovren last summer



They have sold players to the biggest names in English football, to some of the biggest clubs in Europe, if not the world.

There is a football hierarchy, that is also blindingly obvious.

Saints are above a huge amount of clubs in it, including former kings of Europe like Glasgow Celtic.

Who would ever have thought we would see the day when Saints could pick off Celtic's best players? But that day has been here for a while now.

It is a fact of life that footballers will always want to play for the biggest clubs.

Yes, Liverpool are not the force they were in the 1970s or 1980s.

But they still offer players a better chance of winning trophies

than many others, and can offer better wages too.

All the players who have left Saints in the last year and a bit will have seen their salaries increased.

Probably in the same way that everyone who Saints have signed have also seen their wages rise.

### Better wages

As Daren Wheeler explains in his *Beautiful South* column elsewhere in this paper, you cannot underestimate the lure of extra money.

As Wheeler remarks, why else did Toby Alderweireld decide his future lay at Tottenham rather than Saints?

It's not as if Spurs are regular collectors of silverware, is it?

They don't attract crowds too

much bigger than Saints, though they are restricted by their White Hart Lane capacity.

But no doubt they can offer better wages.

For the status quo to change, and for the vultures to stop migrating to the Britannia Road area of Southampton, a massive shift in the footballing landscape needs to occur.

A seismic shift, even.

Saints will need to start offering wages similar to the elite clubs, and as we know that is highly unlikely. Not many clubs can live with the sort of wages the two Manchester clubs and Chelsea can hand out.

If they can't do that, they will need to seriously start challenging for the Premier League title and prove themselves a force in

Europe.

To do that, they will need better players, and have to offer hugely increased salaries ...

It is a vicious circle, and it is easy to sympathise with clubs such as Saints trying to fight their way into a very exclusive group containing the elite of English football.

### Managerial magician

Ronald Koeman produced a near footballing miracle last season, losing half his first team and still over-seeing an improvement in league position.

If he can do the same again in 2015/16, and if he can stop the vultures circling as a result, he will really deserve to be known as a managerial magician.

## Cook: I want US action!

CHERRIES' trip to Philadelphia has sealed it for Steve Cook – he wants to play in the MLS.

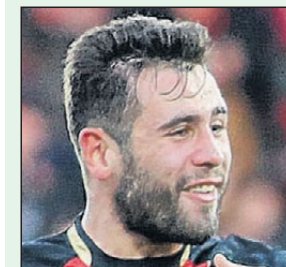
But the Dean Court faithful have no reason to fear their linchpin defender getting restless with his plan to live the American Dream firmly on the backburner for now.

Cook, a one-time Eastleigh loanee, and his team-mates have spent time preparing for their Premier League bow in the United States

And having been taken aback by his first experience of the MLS fanfare, the Cherries centre-half admits playing in it would be an alluring prospect in the future.

Cook said: "Once I'm a bit older, maybe in my 30s when I am looking to do something a bit different, I would like to play in America.

"They do things very well and the whole experience has opened my eyes. I have only seen the one game and admittedly, Philadelphia won but the



Steve Cook

atmosphere was terrific and one of the best I have experienced.

"They had loud music blaring out when they scored and everyone went crazy. It is a very different type of celebration and the whole thing is more of a show. It was enjoyable to take it all in.

"With the way the game is growing over here, by the time I get the chance to consider it properly it will be even bigger than it is now.

"When you see the top players choosing to come over, you always think it would be nice to follow in their footsteps and seeing how it all works makes it all the more attractive for me.

"Hopefully, anything like that is a long way away yet but it is definitely something I would be interested in when the time is right."

Cook, ever present alongside partner in crime Tommy Elphick at the heart of Cherries' defence last season, added: "The lads have been terrific.

"We have one goal in sight now which is the Aston Villa game and everyone is working their socks off to cement their place in the team."

**MORGAN'S SAINTS LIFE IN PICTURES - SEE PAGES 20/21**



# Non league FOOTBALL



## Spitfires swoop to sign ex-Tractor Boy Drury on a one-year deal

EASTLEIGH has pulled off a major coup with the signing of ex-Ipswich midfielder Andy Drury from Luton Town on a free transfer.

Drury, left, has signed a one-year deal and moves to the Silverlake Stadium with vast experience of the Championship, League One and League Two as well as a Conference winners' medal.

Luton announced his departure by mutual consent before Eastleigh confirmed that Drury had signed.

The versatile midfielder has cost £250,000 in transfer fees during his career and will add further quality to the Spitfires as they prepare for the National League season on August 8, which starts at Southport.

Drury, 31, moved to Luton from Crawley last summer for £100,000, returning after spending three years away from Kenilworth Road as the club prepared for life in League Two following the Conference title campaign in 2013/14.

At the time, Hatters boss John Still admitted he was "absolutely thrilled" to secure the services of Drury, who helped Luton finish eighth in their return to the Football League.

The midfielder was initially whisked away from Luton by Ipswich in January 2011 for £150,000.

During his time in Suffolk, Drury had a loan spell at Crawley where he helped lay the foundations for promotion to League One before being recalled to Ipswich and playing a key

role as the Tractor Boys surged back up the Championship in 2011/12.

Drury made more than 60 appearances for Ipswich, and was a mainstay in the 2012/13 Championship season, before Crawley pounced on him.

He brings a wealth of non-league experience having previously played for Stevenage, Lewes and Ebbsfleet.

Drury joins midfielders Josh Payne and Lee Cook, striker Ross Lafayette and defender Joe Partington as the Spitfires' fifth summer signing.

# Boatmen reshuffle takes pressure off boss Diaper

Boatmen boss turns attentions to football

**DAVE Diaper has stepped down as chairman of Sholing to focus solely on his role as manager in what he expects to be a "transitional" period at the Silverlake Arena.**

Diaper, whose tenure as chairman came to a natural end after two years at the Sydenhams Premier Division club's AGM on Monday, will be replaced by Gerry Roberts, who moves up from the vice-chairman role, writes *Peter Howard*.

Ex-assistant manager Mick Brown will now be vice-chairman.

While the BSA Regal director will remain in charge of football matters, he believes that Roberts will bring plenty of "new ideas" to the chairman role.

"Basically my time as chairman was complete," said Diaper. "My tenure had come to an end after a two year period and I decided not to go for re-election.

"Because of work commitments and management responsibilities, it was a lot to take on, so I decided to step down and it feels like the right time.

"Gerry was very keen and has some of his own ideas, which is obviously what you want.

"Enthusiasm is key to the job and Gerry will bring that."

The planned developments on Portsmouth Road, which have rumbled on for years with many twists and turns, are now off the table.

On top of that, with the former ben-



Sholing's manager Dave Diaper

efactors of the club, the VT Sports Group, having now made their final down payment to the Boatmen, Sholing will now be completely self-funded.

It means that Roberts's priority more than ever will be to secure sponsorship and lead the club through

what is expected to be a transitional time.

Another man that is bringing plenty of enthusiasm to the Boatmen is Darren Burdle, who joins the coaching team.

Burdle worked under ex-Folland Sports boss Danny Bowers and

helped take the Planemakers from a Sydenhams Division One outfit, to one thriving in the Wessex top-flight.

"Darren's been great," admitted Diaper. "He brings in enthusiasm and has been a breath of fresh air."

● Sholing started their pre-season programme with a 2-0 victory at Liss.

## Spinney returns

SHOLING have announced that striker Mike Spinney has returned to the Boatmen after two years out with a serious knee injury.

The 34-year-old joins the likes of goalkeeper Ryan Gosney, ex-Eastleigh youngster Jamie Bulpitt and forwards James Davis and Lewis Kelly on the Silverlake Arena summer arrivals list.

"It's going to be a new version of the old Sholing," manager Dave Diaper explained about his team for next season.

"We've still got some of the old guard from the Vase win but we're going to be in transition.

"We have a three year plan in place, there's still a high expectation – we want a top four finish next season – but our playing budget has been reduced.

"We wouldn't go out and spend big money anyway, but we want to continue to bring youngsters through."

Spinney, who was at the former VT FC that then evolved into Sholing, was in action for the Boatmen in a pre-season friendly against Liss Athletic, coming on as a first half substitute.

The experienced centre forward has also played for Brockenhurst during his career.



Mike Spinney

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## Non league FOOTBALL



### Otters seal double deal with two more 'massive coups' on the way

OTTERBOURNE have raided Cadnam United for two new signings and hope to pull off two "massive coups" as they strengthen ahead of the Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League campaign.

Cadnam have dropped back down into the Southampton Saturday Leagues despite being a force to be reckoned with in Hampshire Division One last season, in which they reached the semi-finals of two cup competitions.

And after their demise, the Otters have wasted little time in swooping for two of their top names.

Manager Richard Luffman has secured the services of striker Ash Hewer, left, and combative defender Sam Payne, to add to a squad that promises much for next season.

They have joined Dave Goble, who scored nine goals for a struggling Hedge End side last term, as the new faces at Oakwood Park.

But it doesn't end there, with two big

signings set to move to Otterbourne in the near future.

Luffman has also admitted that they have had to compete with county champions Hamble Club for new players, which, in his eyes, will be a theme this season.

"We have secured three new signings for the new season with a further two close," said the manager.

"The two signings we are hopeful of making would be massive coups for the club.

"It seems every player we go for, Hamble are in for them as well.

"It seems that we are already competing and the season hasn't even started."

Meanwhile, youngster Tommy Wright, who scored 25 goals for the Otters last term, has joined Sutton United.

Wright scored against Winchester in a recent friendly for Sutton and played against League 2 newcomers Bristol Rovers.

# New Winchester signing a chip off the old Benali block

### Winchester's squad shaping up for new season

**MANAGER Paul Masters is looking forward to seeing how "relationships develop" as Winchester City announced another batch of new signings ahead of the Southern League South & West Division One campaign.**

Already Winchester have seen a number of high profile arrivals, with the likes of Liam Gilbert and Rob Flooks swapping AFC Totton for the Denplan City Ground, as well as Jamie Barron from Folland Sports.

Defender Leigh Mills has also returned after a break from football.

And the transfer activity has continued this week with four more signings.

Saints legend Francis Benali's son, Luke, who also plays at full-back like his dad did, has put pen to paper at the Denplan alongside ex-Havant & Waterlooville defender Jake Newton – both of whom impressed in recent trial games.

Former Slough midfielder George Short, who has been tracked by Masters since the end of last season, has now officially signed up.

While ex-Poole Town and Blackfield & Langley targetman Dan Cann – another to impress in recent pre-season matches – has also been snapped up to add competition to an already formidable frontline, led by prolific pair Warren Bentley and Zach Glasspool.

"It's coming together nicely," said Masters. "We obviously lost a few after promotion but we're now developing the side.

"I'm looking forward to see them improve through pre-season and looking forward to seeing how relationships develop.

"Luke (Benali) has come in and done well," the boss explained. "He's like his dad (Francis).

"He's very strong and fit for his age, but I don't want to put him under any pressure.



Luke Benali rues a miss.

"Luke's not played for a while because of work commitments, so there's no need to pile the pressure on him."

Speaking about the capture of Short, Masters added: "To be honest, I'd spoken to him coming to the end of last season," he said. "He lives in

Bishop's Waltham and had been travelling to Slough for a while.

"He liked the club's ambitions, so it was a good deal to do."

Winchester are still in the process of filling the goalkeeper's position, following Ryan Gosney's departure to Sholing after he was unable to

commit to playing in the Southern League.

They expect to wrap up a deal for a new stopper soon.

Meanwhile, Chris Mason's future is still undecided, with things set to become clearer when he returns from holiday.

## QK hunt res boss

QK SOUTHAMPTON are looking to recruit a reserve team manager and coaching staff as they look to continue their development.

The Hampshire Premier League outfit's chairman, Wayne Snelgrove, believes the opportunity to join a club that is "on the up" and has seen significant development over the last 18 months, will generate some real interest.

"As with all clubs, the reserve team is an important and integral part of any set up. The club relies heavily on the support of the reserve team in bringing new players through to the 1st team, preparing players for a return after injury and providing a platform for the young players to get some experience."

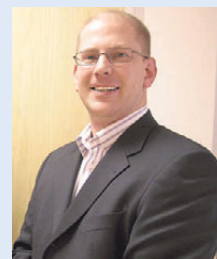
"Here at QK it is now exactly that and we have worked hard over the last season to get things in place, which we have achieved, so we feel this will provide a great opportunity for any potential manager to be part of the ongoing success at our club."

It all comes as QK continue their development.

Last term the club If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact Snelgrove: QKsouthampton@yahoo.com.

● AFC Totton got their pre-season programme off to a flying start with a 5-0 victory over Brockenhurst.

Mike Gosney gave the Stags a half-time lead before another new signing, Mark Lilley, slotted home to double the lead. Stuart Mott added another, before new man Nick Watts and Lilley netted.



Wayne Snelgrove



## Non league FOOTBALL



Stuart Green

### Rams add former Winchester duo Green and Cope

Former Winchester City duo Stuart Green and Dominic Cope have signed for Sydenhams Premier Division champions Petersfield Town.

Both Green and Cope are ex-Alresford players who were at City last term, but have now moved to join the Rams, who are preparing for life in the Southern League Central Division after winning the Wessex League last term.

Green had a hugely successful spell as captain of the Magpies.

"Greener will become an important

member of this exciting group of players," said manager Ian Saunders, prior to Green's signature.

"We are almost there with the re-shaping of the squad, although I do expect one or two further player movements within the next few days."

More signings followed on Wednesday with Cope, who is known for his versatility, joining an ever developing Rams squad.

On top of that ex-Bognor Regis and Moneyfields man, Dan Sackman has put

pen to paper at Love Lane.

Stackman, who has also played professional football in America, is considered "a fantastic addition to the Rams defence".

During the last week they have also announced that Matt Short, Olly Searle and Jordan Neal have all committed their futures to the club.

Cope and Green both left the Denplan City Ground after their promotion to the Southern League South & West Division One because of the extra travel.

### City start at home

**NEWLY promoted Winchester City** will start their Southern League South & West Division One campaign at home to Bridgwater Town.

The Somerset outfit, who finished 12th last term, will visit the Denplan City Ground for Paul Masters' side's big league curtain raiser on Saturday, August 8 (3pm kick off).

City will then follow that home game up with a short trip to Wimborne Town on Tuesday 11 August (7.45pm kick off), as they get their Southern League campaign underway following their surprise promotion in June at the Southern League's AGM.

Winchester were originally preparing for life in the Sydenhams Premier Division this season, but took the chance to be pushed up a level after a slot in the division became available, with Flackwell Heath turning down the chance to play in the South & West.

Meanwhile AFC Totton, who finished 15th in the South & West last term, will travel the opposite way to Bridgwater for a tough opening game at last season's third-placed outfit Taunton Town.



Paul Masters

The Somerset side did the double over the Stags last term, with two 2-1 victories.

Both of those games ended with late heartbreak for Totton.

Steve Hollick's team's first home game is against Wantage Town, who finished third-from-bottom last season, on Tuesday, August 11 (7.45pm kick off).

Totton did the double over the Oxfordshire side last term — winning 2-1 and 3-1.

Elsewhere, the fixtures for the first round of the Red Insure Cup throws up two fascinating and spicy local ties, with Winchester travelling to Sydenhams Premier Division champions Petersfield Town.

Totton will welcome Bashley to the Testwood Stadium and play their tie on Tuesday, 12 October, with Winchester stepping in to action the very next day on Wednesday, 13 October.

# Eastleigh project a labour of love for chief executive

Jewell has been swept away with Spitfires job

**EASTLEIGH Football Club have a chief executive who is a self-confessed football nut and has been "all-consumed" by the project that is unfolding at the Silverlake Stadium.**

Mark Jewell joined the Spitfires in February 2012 as their commercial manager and worked his way up to be the club's chief, becoming owner Stewart Donald's right-hand man on Stoneham Lane, writes Peter Howard.

On arrival at the club, the Oxford-based businessman promised himself that he would not become emotionally connected with the Spitfires and reserve his fandom for the club he's supported since he was young — QPR.

However, winning the Conference South in 2013/14 and getting to within a game of a Wembley play-off final in their first season in the Conference top-flight (now the National League) last term, Jewell has found himself swept away.

After 18 months in the job he was finding it hard not to just have a business attachment to Eastleigh and, if the penny hadn't dropped already, things took a further turn on a trip north as manager Richard Hill's side built momentum for an incredible fourth place finish in the Vanarama Conference.

"I remember in Gateshead, I was jumping up and down, shouting," Jewell explained.

"I had Brian Barwick, the new chairman of the National League, sat behind me and some dignitaries.

"When I jumped out my seat and punched the air, I thought I'd better sit down and behave myself.

"You can easily let your emotions runaway with you, but you've got to be able to switch off the fan-like thoughts.

"Sometimes you have to make decisions that a fan would do in a differ-



Mark Jewell

ent way, but you've got to make business decisions.

"You've got to balance the books. Sometimes you have to make the tough calls.

"I always said I'm never going to be a fan (of Eastleigh) because I'm a QPR fan."

"I promised myself that it's just going to be a business.

"Within 18 months, though, I was hooked.

"I wake up in the middle of the night and I'm thinking about Eastleigh.

"It's weird. I'm well adsorbed, it's all-consuming.

"You just end up like a fan and sometimes you have to quell those emotions."

Jewell is now busy preparing for another season and admits he's at full tilt, making sure Eastleigh are as healthy off-field as possible.

"I'm probably working harder now at 45 than I did when I was 25," Jewell smiled. "It's been a huge learning curve for me.

"It's a new challenge for me, but it's good."



## Non league FOOTBALL



### Verwood boss delighted as ex-Spitfire steps up

MANAGER Carl Poore believes new right-hand man, and former Eastleigh striker, Matt Groves is perfectly placed to lighten his load at Verwood – particularly after shedding a few pounds.

Veteran Groves, 35, fills the role vacated by Kris Anderton's departure to Dorset Premier League club Cranborne in February and will continue his playing career while working behind the scenes at Potterne Park.

The former Weymouth player-assistant manager was a surprise acquisition

on the eve of last season but went on to play 34 Sydenhams Wessex League matches for Poore's fledgling side while dual-registering with Southern League Frome Town.

And while Poore is delighted with the latest addition to his backroom staff, he insists Groves's appetite to have an influence on the pitch is as healthy as ever after rocking up at pre-season training looking trim.

Poore quipped: "Grovesy will still feature on the playing side and I have to say,

he is looking as slim as he has for years!

"I was on the lookout for an assistant last season after Kris left but didn't want to make a rash decision. As a manager, you need an assistant you can trust and I have a lot of faith in Grovesy.

"He will have a massive influence in the changing room and having sampled life as an assistant at Weymouth, it won't be new to him. He will bring a lot of know-how to the role.

"Together with Gavin Reeves (coach), I couldn't think of a better team."

### New targets

● Continued from left.

Jewell added: "We're good value for money and people are buying into that."

The chief executive knows Eastleigh are in a privileged position with owner Stewart Donald's financial backing.

"We are able to be more speculative with our budgeting knowing Stewart is there to invest and back any projects that we do," Jewell explained.

"I know we're very fortunate in that way, but invariably those ideas come off. You might think, because we're giving this money away at the gate, are we going to make it back?

"Whilst we might not have the income in gate receipts, the benefit to the business is in other areas.

"So it doesn't necessarily cost us to let someone in for nothing, because then if they want to buy a season ticket, you've won.

"For lower league clubs, it's the only way forward.



Left, Stewart Donald

"We're gaining more sponsorship all the while. We're getting more investment into the club outside of Stewart's empire."

Off-field targets have been set for next term.

"One thousand season tickets is the target and where we'd love to be at the start of the season," Jewell said.

"With some community involvement that's achievable this year, which 12 months ago you wouldn't have thought possible.

"Every time we get a television game or do a promotional game where we reduce ticket prices, we get a bumper crowd.

"You'll never get those people coming back every week, you might pick up another 20 or 30 from that batch of new people coming along.

"We're building in blocks for the future."

# Spitfires out to keep football affordable for supporters

### Jewell wants Eastleigh to buck high prices trend

**CHIEF executive Mark Jewell believes it is "imperative" for Eastleigh to keep bucking the trend in football and not out price their growing support base.**

During their first season in the Conference top-flight, now known as the National League, the Spitfires managed average gates of 1,752 at home games, *writes Peter Howard.*

That meant Eastleigh's average attendance was up an incredible 157.5 per cent from just over 650 during the Skrill South winning campaign of 2013/14.

Last term they broke their record gate twice and increased the Silverlake Stadium's capacity to over 5,000 with the construction of the Mackay Community Stand at the far end of their complex.

But it wasn't any coincidence that this rapid evolution took place.

The Spitfires enticed new fans with free entry matches and rock-bottom ticket prices, but also looked after their original support base with competitive season ticket prices.

And despite their progress on field, with a fourth place play-off finish in their first term in the Conference, there is no intention of hiking prices anytime soon.

"We don't want to rest on our laurels, we want to push on and increase the numbers of supporters," said Jewell.

"We've got to get to an average gate of over 2,000.

"We're certainly engaging these people that are coming in, who are new to Eastleigh.

"Particularly the younger boys and girls that come along, they're buying the kit, they're wearing the colours and they'll be Spitfires fans going forward.

"That's all we want really."

In fact, majority of season ticket prices have been frozen, with an



Eastleigh fans in the Mackay Community Stand last season

adult season pass available for £150, which converts to just over £6.50 a game.

In comparison, newly relegated Tranmere are charging £380 for season ticket, and £300 at Conference South champions Bromley.

"Increasingly people are buying

season tickets here because they are competitively priced," Jewell said.

"We hear people saying that they follow a team in the Premier League, but it's becoming completely unaffordable for a family of three or four to go along and pay in excess of £1,000 for season tickets.

"They can come down here and it's a matter of a few hundred pounds for the season and it does make a massive difference.

"They are able to get their fix at an affordable price."

● Continues on right column.



# Premiership Spotlight



LIVERPOOL and Manchester City have agreed a £49million fee for Raheem Sterling.

It is the second-biggest deal ever struck between Premier League clubs.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the current top 10 deals and our verdict on how those players fared at their new clubs.

**1 FERNANDO TORRES** (Liverpool to Chelsea, £50million, January 2011)

Torres, below right, established himself as one of the most prolific frontmen in world football during his spell at Anfield, prompting Chelsea to invest heavily in his services. However, he was never able to reproduce his best form for the Londoners and after loan spells with AC Milan and Atletico Madrid, eventually sealed a permanent move to the Italian club in January this year.

**VERDICT: MISS**

**2 JUAN MATA** (Chelsea to Manchester United, £37.1million, January 2014)

Mata found himself unable to persuade Jose Mourinho he was worthy of a regular starting berth at Stamford Bridge and was signed by then United boss David Moyes in January 2014. The Spain midfielder had to be patient once again after the arrival of new manager Louis van Gaal as the Dutchman experimented with the players at his disposal, eventually finding a place for a proven match-winner.



**VERDICT: HIT**

**3 ANDY CARROLL** (Newcastle to Liverpool, £35million, January 2011)

There was uproar on Tyneside when the Magpies accepted an offer from Liverpool, who were immediately reinvesting a large chunk of the £50million Torres fee. However, Carroll was hampered by injuries and when new boss Brendan Rodgers decided he was not for him, his stay on Merseyside came to a swift conclusion.

**VERDICT: MISS**

**4 DIMITAR BERBATOV** (Tottenham to Manchester United, £30.75million, September 2008)

Berbatov headed for Old Trafford with a blossoming reputation having proved himself in the Premier League during his two seasons at Spurs. He scored 14 goals during his first season at United, 12 in his second and 22 in his third, but fell out of favour with manager Sir Alex Ferguson and joined Fulham in August 2012.

**VERDICT: MISS**

**5. RIO FERDINAND** (Leeds to Manchester United, £30million, July 2002)

A little more than 19 months after Leeds had paid West Ham £18million for central defender Ferdinand, United handed over £30million to secure his services, and it proved money well spent. He went on to make more than 450 appearances for the club over 12 years and won six league titles, the Champions League and two League Cups while at the same time representing England with distinction.

continued on facing page

# Who's made best

**THE countdown to the 2015/16 Premier League season is well upon us now.**

Here, the Sports Pink looks at all the Premier League ins and outs since last season ended.

We also focus on some of the major close season signings so far.

## ARSENAL

Not many 33-year-old goalkeepers move clubs for £10m, but Petr Cech is no ordinary shot-stopper.

He moved across London after being given special dispensation by Blues owner Roman Abramovich to join a rival title challenger – despite reservations from manager Jose Mourinho.

The Czech Republic could make his competitive debut against his former club when the rivals go head-to-head in the Community Shield at Wembley on August 2.

During his time at Stamford Bridge, Cech won four Premier League titles, four FA Cups, three League Cups, the Champions League and Europa League.

**In:** Petr Cech (Chelsea) £10m

**Out:** Lukas Podolski (Galatasaray) £1.8m  
Ainsley Maitland-Niles (Ipswich) Loan  
Brandon Ormonde-Ottewill (Swindon) Free  
Semi Ajayi (Cardiff) Free

**Released:** Abou Diaby, Jack Jebb, Austin Lipman, Ryo Miyaichi, Josh Vickers

## ASTON VILLA

Aston Villa reportedly beat off competition from Saints to sign midfielder Idrissa Gueye for £9m.

The 25-year-old is a Senegal international colleague of Saints winger Sadio Mane.

Gueye is a box-to-box midfielder, but is not a prolific marksman – having only struck five times for his club in the last two seasons in French League and cup action.

Boss Tim Sherwood could certainly do with some more goal threats, after Villa managed only 31 goals in 38 league games last term.

**In:** Scott Sinclair (Man City) £2.5m  
Idrissa Gueye (Lille) £9m  
Mark Bunn (Norwich) Free  
Micah Richards (Manchester City) Free

**Out:** Darren Bent (Derby) Free  
Shay Given (Stoke) Free  
Graham Burke (Notts County) Free  
Matthew Lowton (Burnley) Undisclosed  
Yacouba Sylla (Rennes) Undisclosed  
Enda Stevens (Portsmouth) Free  
Andreas Weimann (Derby) Undisclosed

**Released:** Graham Burke, Alfie



**NEW GUNNER:** Ex-Chelsea goalkeeping legend Petr Cech.



**SOUTH COAST SWITCH:** Artur Boruc has swapped Saints for Cherries permanently.

Crooks, Christopher Herd, Craig Hill, Bradley Lewis, Isaac Nehemie, Daniel O'Brien, Thomas Strain, Ron Vlaar

## BOURNEMOUTH

Eddie Howe has so far been one of the busier Premier League managers this summer.

He has brought in five permanent signings – including former Saints keeper Artur Boruc – ahead of the Dorset club's historic Premier League campaign.

And Howe has also signed

Ghanian winger Christian Atsu on loan from Chelsea for the coming season.

Atsu joined the Blues in the summer of 2013, but has never played for them – spending 2013/14 on loan at Vitesse Arnham and last season on loan to Everton.

The 23-year-old was voted player of the tournament at this year's Africa Cup of Nations, where Ghana finished runners-up.

Cherries also signed Ipswich full back Tyrone Mings for a reported club record £8m fee.

The 22-year-old's arrival at Dean

Court last month came less than three years after he almost quit the game before signing for Ipswich from non-league Chippenham Town for just £10,000.

**In:** Christian Atsu (Chelsea) Season Loan

Artur Boruc (Southampton) Free  
Adam Federici (Reading) Free  
Joshua King (Blackburn) Undisclosed  
Sylvain Distin (Everton) Free  
Tyrone Mings (Ipswich) Undisclosed

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# Premiership Spotlight

## signings so far?



**REUNITED:** Alan Pardew has signed his former Newcastle star Yohan Cabaye for Palace.



**PREMIER SWITCH:** Can Radamel Falcao rediscover his goal form at Stamford Bridge?

**Out:** Mohamed Coulibaly (Port Vale) Free  
Joe Partington (Eastleigh) Free  
Jayden Stockley (Portsmouth) Loan  
Josh McQuoid (Luton) Free  
Ryan Fraser (Ipswich) Loan  
Brett Pitman (Ipswich) Undisclosed

**Released:** Miles Addison, Benji Buchel, Ian Harte, Darryl Flahavan

### CHELSEA

Jose Mourinho will be hoping to can do in 2015/16 what Louis van Gaal failed to achieve in 2014/15.

And that is to help loanee Radamel Falcao rediscover his scoring touch.

The Colombian was a loan flop at Old Trafford last season, scoring just four times in 14 league starts plus another 12 off the bench.

Such figures contrasted sharply with his time at Porto, where he fired 41 goals in 51 league games, and also his record at Atletico Madrid – 52 La Liga goals in 68 appearances.

That was why Monaco splashed out £52m to sign him in the summer of 2013, and he scored 11 times in 20

league matches before suffering a serious knee injury.

**In:** Nathan (Atletico Paranaense) Undisclosed  
Radamel Falcao (Monaco) Loan

**Out:** Christian Atsu (Bournemouth) Season Loan  
Marco van Ginkel (Stoke) Loan  
Josh McEachran (Brentford) £750,000  
Mario Pasalic (Monaco) Loan  
Lewis Baker (Vitesse Arnhem) Loan  
Petr Cech (Arsenal) £10m  
Gael Kakuta (Sevilla) Undisclosed

**Released:** Didier Drogba

### CRYSTAL PALACE

Palace have issued a real statement of intent ahead of the coming season by making Yohan Cabaye their record signing.

Eagles boss Alan Pardew knows the French midfielder well, having been his manager at Newcastle for almost three years.

Cabaye left Tyneside in January 2014 to sign for Paris St Germain for £19m.

But he only made 22 La Ligue starts, plus 17 off the bench, before returning to England to sign for Palace for a club record £12m.

Pardew will be hoping for big things from Cabaye as he aims to build on a sensational first half season at Selhurst Park.

**In:** Yohan Cabaye (Paris St-Germain) £12m

**Out:** Lewis Price (Sheffield Wednesday) Free  
Kyle De Silva (Notts County) Free  
Jack Hunt (Sheff Wednesday) Loan

**Released:** Stephen Dobbie Owen, Garvan, Peter Ramage, Jerome Thomas, Brede Hangeland, Shola Ameobi

### EVERTON

Everton boss Roberto Martinez has brought Gerard Deulofeu back to Goodison Park permanently.

The 21-year-old impressed during his loan spell at Goodison Park in 2013-14, and has signed the pacy Spaniard for £4.2m from Barcelona. Deulofeu only made two sub appearances for Barca in La Liga.

He spent last season on loan at Sevilla, scoring once in 17 league games.

He netted four times in 29 appearances with the Toffees in his first spell.

**In:** Tom Cleverly (Manchester United) Free  
Gerard Deulofeu (Barcelona) £4.3m

**Out:** Sylvain Distin (Bournemouth) Free  
George Green (Oldham) Free

**Released:** Antolin Alcaraz, Curtis Langton, John Lundstram, Ben McLaughlin

### LEICESTER CITY

LEICESTER have signed Saints defender Maya Yoshida's Japanese international colleague Shinji Okazaki

The 29-year-old scored 12 goals in the Bundesliga last season for Mainz, after netting 15 in his first campaign as the club finished an impressive seventh.

continued on next page

### VERDICT: HIT

**5= LUKE SHAW** (Southampton to Manchester United, £30million, June 2014)

United backed their belief in Shaw's potential with hard cash when they splashed out on the then 18-year-old last summer. However, he has found the going tough to date with Van Gaal at one point questioning his fitness, and he is yet to fully prove his worth.

### VERDICT: MISS

**7=, ROMELU LUKAKU** (Chelsea to Everton, £28million, July 2014)

Everton spent big on Lukaku after seeing him score 15 goals in 31 appearances on loan after managing 17 for West Brom during the previous campaign. The Belgium international, who figured in only 10 league games for Chelsea, struck 20 times last season including a Europa League hat-trick against Young Boys.

### VERDICT: MISS

**7=, WILFRIED BONY** (Swansea to Manchester City, £28million, January 2015)

Bony's superb form for Swansea, for whom he scored 25 league goals in 54 appearances, prompted City to hand over £28million to add him to their already impressive armory. However, it took the Ivory Coast international time to find his feet at the Etihad Stadium following his return from the African Nations Cup, and he managed just two goals in 12 outings.

### VERDICT: MISS



**9 MAROUANE FELLAINI** (Everton to Manchester United, £27.5million, September 2013)

David Moyes thought he had secured a key piece of the jigsaw when he managed to prise Belgium international Fellaini, above left, from the grasp of former club Everton following his appointment as United boss. However, the towering midfielder only really made an impressive following the end of the Scot's ill-fated and all too brief reign with Van Gaal belatedly seeing the best of him last season.

**VERDICT: Under David Moyes at United, a MISS. But under Van Gaal, a surprise HIT.**

**10 JAMES MILNER** (Aston Villa to Manchester City, £26million, August 18, 2010)

Former Leeds, Newcastle and Aston Villa midfielder Milner was elevated to a different level when City used their financial muscle to add him to their weaponry. Perhaps a more prosaic talent than some of the more vaunted members of the squad, Milner's industry and attitude proved attractive to successive managers, and he was a fixture in Manuel Pellegrini's team last season.

### VERDICT: HIT

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## Did You Know?

### Most Wimbledon singles titles – men

7 - William Renshaw (GB) – 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1889

7 Pete Sampras (USA) – 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

7 Roger Federer (Swiss) – 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012

5 Björn Borg (Sweden) – 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980

5 Lawrence Doherty (GB) – 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906

4 Reginald Doherty (GB) – 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900

4 Rod Laver (AUS) – 1961, 1962, 1968, 1969

4 Anthony Wilding (NZ) – 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913

3 Wilfred Baddeley (GB) – 1891, 1892, 1895

3 Boris Becker (Germany) – 1985, 1986, 1989

3 Novak Djokovic (Serbia) – 2011, 2014, 2015

3 Arthur Gore (GB) – 1901, 1908, 1909

3 John McEnroe (USA) – 1981, 1983, 1984

3 John Newcombe (AUS) – 1967, 1970, 1971

3 Fred Perry (GB) – 1934, 1935, 1936

3 Bill Tilden (USA) – 1920, 1921, 1930

### Most Wimbledon singles titles – women

9 Martina Navratilova (USA) – 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1990

8 Helen Wills Moody (USA) – 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1938

7 Dorothea Lambert Chambers (UK) – 1903, 1904, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1913, 1914

7 Steffi Graf (GER) – 1988, 1989, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996

6 Blanche Bingley (UK) – 1886, 1889, 1894, 1897, 1899, 1900

6 Suzanne Lenglen (FRA) – 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925

6 Billie Jean King (USA) – 1966, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1975

6 Serena Williams (USA) – 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2015

5 Charlotte Cooper Sterry (UK) – 1895, 1896, 1898, 1901, 1908

5 Lottie Dod (UK) – 1887, 1888, 1891, 1892, 1893

5 Venus Williams (USA) – 2000, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2008

## Premiership Spotlight

# Rodgers rings the

continued from previous page

Okazaki moved to Europe from his homeland in 2011, but managed just 13 goals in 83 games for Stuttgart signing for Mainz in 2013. Okazaki is Japan's third all-time leading scorer with 43 goals from 93 appearances.

**In:** Christian Fuchs (Schalke) Free  
Shinji Okazaki (Mainz) Undisclosed  
Robert Huth (Stoke) Undisclosed

**Out:** Anthony Knockaert (Standard Liege) Free  
Chris Wood (Leeds) Undisclosed  
Tom Hopper (Scunthorpe) Free  
Adam Smith (Northampton) Free  
Paul Gallagher (Preston) Free

**Released:** Zoumana Bakayogo, Marcel Barrington, Adam Dawson, Kieran Kennedy, Conrad Logan, Herve Pepe-Ngoma, Louis Rowley, Gary Taylor-Fletcher, Matthew Upson

### LIVERPOOL

Have Liverpool signed a ready-made replacement for Raheem Sterling in Brazilian playmaker Robert Firmino?

Brendan Rodgers will certainly be hoping that he has, after splashing out £29 on the Hoffenheim player.

Sterling scored seven goals for Liverpool last season and provided seven more assists last season.

Firmino scored the same amount of Bundesliga goals in 2014/15 whilst setting up a further three, despite playing for a relatively low-scoring mid-table team.

Over the past two seasons, Firmino boasts the second-best assist return (21) in the Bundesliga behind Kevin De Bruyne (26).

That is while playing for a team that have finished no higher than eighth.

Danny Ings, once released by the Saints academy, could be the man to benefit from Firmino's presence after his arrival from relegated Burnley.

The 22-year-old Winchester-born forward netted 11 league goals last season, which was just one fewer than Saints' top scorer Graziano Pelle managed.

Meanwhile, Saints fans will be intrigued to see if Nathaniel Clyne enjoys better luck than the three Saints who moved to Anfield last summer.

**In:** Adam Bogdan (Bolton) Free  
Danny Ings (Burnley) Free  
James Milner (Man City) Free  
Nathaniel Clyne (Southampton) £12.5m

Roberto Firmino (Hoffenheim) £29m  
Joe Gomez (Charlton) £3.5m

**Out:** Steven Gerrard (LA Galaxy), Glen Johnson (Stoke) Free  
Kevin Stewart (Swindon) Loan  
Lloyd Jones (Blackpool) Loan



**BIG MONEY SIGNING:** New Liverpool midfielder Robert Firmino.



**BIG MONEY SIGNING:** Manchester United have landed Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Jordan Williams (Swindon) Loan  
Sebastian Coates (Sunderland) Undisclosed  
Danny Ward (Aberdeen) Loan  
Raheem Sterling (Man City) £49m  
**Released:** Brad Jones, Jordan Lussey, Marc Pelosi

### MANCHESTER CITY

Manchester City's first signing this summer was an 18-year-old hot-shot from Turkey.

Enes Unal scored a staggering 182 goals in 110 games for Bursaspor's youth team, and also struck 24 goals in 25 games for Turkey's

under-16 side.

In 2013, aged 16, he became the youngest goalscorer in the Turkish top flight.

Unal joined City in a deal worth an initial £500,000 to the Turkish club, building up to £2m, including a 10 per cent sell-on clause.

**In:** Enes Unal (Bursaspor) £2m  
Raheem Sterling (Liverpool) £49m  
**Out:** Dedryck Boyata (Celtic) £1.5m  
James Milner (Liverpool) Free  
Scott Sinclair (Aston Villa) £2.5m  
Matija Nastasic (Schalke) £8m  
John Guidetti (Celta Vigo) Free  
Micah Richards (Aston Villa) Free

**Released:** Adam Drury, Greg Leigh, Dominic Odoro

### MANCHESTER UNITED

Louis van Gaal returned to his native Netherlands to make Memphis Depay his first summer signing.

The 22-year-old was PSV Eindhoven's top scorer with 22 goals in 30 games as they won the Dutch League title last season.

That form prompted van Gaal to part with over £30m to sign the winger who helped his country win

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# Premiership Spotlight

# Anfield changes



**BIG MONEY SIGNING:** New Liverpool striker Danny Ings on England under-21 duty.



**BIG MONEY SIGNING:** Morgan Schneiderlin has moved to Old Trafford.

the 2011 under-17 European Championships.

van Gaal followed that up by landing Torino defender Matteo Darmian for around £12.7m.

The 25-year-old Italian international is mainly a right back but can play on the left – which might not be great news for ex-Saints starlet Luke Shaw.

Darmian started all three of Italy's matches at last year's World Cup.

United made a double swoop this week for Bastian Schweinsteiger and Morgan Schneiderlin.

**In:** Memphis Depay (PSV) £31m, Matteo Darmian (Torino) £12.7m, Bastian Schweinsteiger (Bayern M) £13m, Morgan Schneiderlin (Saints) £25m

**Out:** Tom Cleverly (Everton) Free, Nani (Fenerbahce) £4.25m, Will Keane (Preston) Loan, Tom Thorpe (Rotherham) Free, Ben Amos (Bolton) Free, Saidy Janko (Celtic) Compensation

**Released:** Benjamin Amos, Callum Evans, Ryan McConnell

## NEWCASTLE UNITED

Georginio Wijnaldum became the third most expensive signing in Newcastle's history after joining from PSV Eindhoven for £14.5million.

The attacking midfielder is Steve McClaren's first signing since becoming head coach at St James' Park.

While new Manchester United signing Memphis Depay was PSV's top scorer with 22 in last season's title winning campaign, Wijnaldum was third best with 14 goals in 33 appearances from midfield.

The current Dutch international first caught McClaren's eye when he was managing FC Twente and Wijnaldum was at PSV.

The fee is just short of the club record £16m paid for Michael Owen and the £15m for ex-Saint Alan Shearer.

**In:** Georginio Wijnaldum (PSV Eindhoven) £14.5m

**Out:** Davide Santon (Inter Milan) £2.8m

Sammy Ameobi (Cardiff) Loan, Adam Campbell (Notts County) Free, Remie Streete (Port Vale) Free

**Released:** Jak Alnwick, Jonas Gutierrez, Ryan Taylor

## NORWICH CITY

Newly promoted Norwich have yet to make any eye-raising arrivals.

Boss Alex Neil's first signing of the summer was a player who joined them on loan last season and helped them up via the play-offs.

West Bromwich Albion midfielder Graham Dorrans has arrived permanently at Carrow Road.

The Scotland international joined Albion from Livingston for just £150,000 in July 2008, making 189 appearances for the Baggies and scoring 26 times.

Neil then returned to the Hawthorns to sign midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu, 28, a former French youth international who netted 15 times in 191 appearances for the Baggies.

**In:** Graham Dorrans (West Brom) Youssouf Mulumbu (West Brom) Free

**Out:** Cameron McGeehan (Luton) Undisclosed

Mark Bunn (Aston Villa) Free, Remi Matthews (Burton) Loan, Sam Kelly (Port Vale) Free

**Released:** Carlos Cuellar, Javier Garrido, Kyle Callan-McFadden, Luciano Becchio

## SOUTHAMPTON

**In:** Juanmi (Malaga) £5m, Cedric Soares (Sporting Lisbon) £4.7m

Cuco Martina (FC Twente) Undisclosed

Maarten Stekelenburg (Fulham) Loan

**Out:** Artur Boruc (Bournemouth) Free

Nathaniel Clyne (Liverpool) £12.5m, Cody Cropper (MK Dons) Free, Morgan Schneiderlin (Man Utd) £25m

**Released:** Jos Hooiveld, Omar Rowe, Chris Johns, Jake Sinclair

## STOKE CITY

Chelsea midfielder Marco van Ginkel is hoping he can impress Jose Mourinho during his season-loan at Stoke.

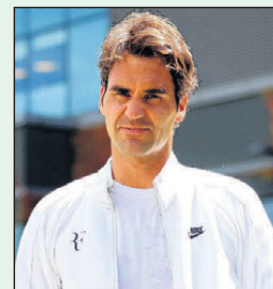
The 22-year-old arrived at

*continued on next page 19*

## Did You Know?

### Most tennis Grand Slam singles titles – men

	Ttl	Au	F	W	US
Roger Federer	17	4	1	7	5
Pete Sampras	14	2	0	7	5
Rafael Nadal	14	1	9	2	2
Roy Emerson	12	6	2	2	2
Rod Laver	11	3	2	4	2
Björn Borg	11	0	6	5	0
Bill Tilden	10	0	0	3	7
Novak Djokovic	9	5	0	3	1
Fred Perry	8	1	1	3	3
Ken Rosewall	8	4	2	0	2
Jimmy Connors	8	1	0	2	5
Ivan Lendl	8	2	3	0	3
Andre Agassi	8	4	1	1	2
Richard Sears	7	0	0	0	7
William Renshaw	7	0	0	7	0
William Larned	7	0	0	0	7
René Lacoste	7	0	3	2	2
Henri Cochet	7	0	4	2	1
John Newcombe	7	2	0	3	2
John McEnroe	7	0	0	3	4
Mats Wilander	7	3	3	0	1
Laurence Doherty	6	0	0	5	1
Tony Wilding	6	2	0	4	0
Jack Crawford	6	4	1	1	0
Don Budge	6	1	1	2	2
Stefan Edberg	6	2	0	2	2
Boris Becker	6	2	0	3	1



ROGER FEDERER

### Most tennis Grand Slam singles titles – women

Steffi Graf	22	4	6	7	5
Serena Williams	21	6	3	6	6
Chris Evert	18	2	7	3	6
M Navratilova	18	3	2	9	4
Margaret Court	11	4	3	1	3
Monica Seles	9	4	3	0	2
Billie Jean King	8	0	1	4	3
E Goolagong	7	4	1	2	0
Justine Henin	7	1	4	0	2
Venus Williams	7	0	0	5	2
Martina Hingis	5	3	0	1	1
Maria Sharapova	5	1	2	1	1
Kim Clijsters	4	1	0	0	3
Hana Mandliková	4	2	1	0	1
Arantxa Vicario	4	0	3	0	1



SERENA WILLIAMS

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# Premiership Spotlight



Did You Know?

## Etienne makes a

### MOST MAJOR GOLF TITLE WINS

	M	US	BO	PG	Ttl
Jack Nicklaus (US)	6	4	3	5	18
Tiger Woods (US)	4	3	3	4	14
Walter Hagen (US)	0	2	4	5	11
Ben Hogan (US)	2	4	1	2	9
Gary Player (SA)	3	1	3	2	9
Tom Watson (US)	2	1	5	0	8
Gene Sarazen (US)	1	2	1	3	7
Arnold Palmer (US)	4	1	2	0	7
Sam Snead (US)	3	0	1	3	7
Bobby Jones (US)	0	4	3	0	7
Harry Vardon (Jersey)	0	1	6	0	7
Lee Trevino (US)	0	2	2	2	6
Nick Faldo (GB)	3	0	3	0	6
Phil Mickelson (US)	3	0	1	1	5
Byron Nelson (US)	2	1	0	2	5
Seve Ballesteros (Sp)	2	0	3	0	5
James Braid (Sco)	0	0	5	0	5
John Taylor (Eng)	0	0	5	0	5
Peter Thomson (Aus)	0	0	5	0	5
Raymond Floyd (US)	1	1	0	2	4
Willie Anderson (Sco)	0	4	0	0	4
Ernie Els (SA)	0	2	2	0	4
Jim Barnes (GB)	0	1	1	2	4
Rory McIlroy (NI)	0	1	1	2	4
Bobby Locke (SA)	0	0	4	0	4
Tom Morris, Sr (Sco)	0	0	4	0	4
Tom Morris, Jr (Sco)	0	0	4	0	4
Willie Park, Sr (Sco)	0	0	4	0	4
Jimmy Demaret (US)	3	0	0	0	3
Cary Middlecoff (US)	1	2	0	0	3
Ralph Guldahl (US)	1	2	0	0	3
Billy Casper (US)	1	2	0	0	3
Vijay Singh (Fiji)	1	0	0	2	3
Hale Irwin (US)	0	3	0	0	3
Julius Boros (US)	0	2	0	1	3
Payne Stewart (US)	0	2	0	1	3
Larry Nelson (US)	0	1	0	2	3
Tommy Armour (US)	0	1	1	1	3
James Anderson (Sco)	0	0	3	0	3
Henry Cotton (Eng)	0	0	3	0	3
Bob Ferguson (Sco)	0	0	3	0	3
Pádraig Harrington (Irl)	0	0	2	1	3
Nick Price (Zimb)	0	0	1	2	3
Denny Shute (US)	0	0	1	2	3

Key: M = US Masters. US = US Open. BO = British Open. PG = US PGA.

### MOST FORMULA 1 RACE WINS

	R	Wins	%
Michael Schumacher	308	91	29.55%
Alain Prost	202	51	25.25%
Ayrton Senna	162	41	25.31%
Sebastian Vettel	148	40	27.03%
Lewis Hamilton	157	38	24.20%
Fernando Alonso	244	32	13.11%
Nigel Mansell	191	31	16.23%
Jackie Stewart	100	27	27.00%
Jim Clark	73	25	34.25%
Niki Lauda	177	25	14.12%

R = Total races

### MOST FORMULA 1 POLE POSITIONS

	R	Poles	%
Michael Schumacher	308	68	22.08%
Ayrton Senna	162	65	40.12%
Lewis Hamilton	157	46	29.30%
Sebastian Vettel	148	45	30.41%
Jim Clark	73	33	45.21%
Alain Prost	202	33	16.34%
Nigel Mansell	191	32	16.75%
Juan Manuel Fangio	52	29	55.77%
Mika Häkkinen	165	26	15.76%
Niki Lauda	177	24	13.56%
Nelson Piquet	207	24	11.59%

continued from previous page

Stamford Bridge in an £8m deal from Vitesse two years ago, but has been restricted to just two sub appearances in the league.

He spent last season on loan at Milan, and has now become one of Mark Hughes' new additions to his Britannia Stadium squad.

Ex-Liverpool full back Glen Johnson and veteran keeper Shay Given will add some good experience, while Joselu could provide some goals.

Hughes has paid German club Hannover £5.75m for the former Spain Under-21 international who scored 10 goals in 32 appearances in 2014-15.

That was Joselu's debut season at Hannover after moving from Eintracht Frankfurt.

**In:** Jakob Haugaard (Midtjylland)

Undisclosed

Phillipp Wollscheid (Bayer

Leverkusen) Undisclosed

Glen Johnson (Liverpool) Free

Marco van Ginkel (Chelsea) Loan

Shay Given (Stoke) Free

Joselu (Hannover) £5.75m

**Out:** Jamie Ness (Scunthorpe) Free  
Steven Nzonzi (Sevilla) £7m  
Robert Huth (Leicester) Undisclosed

**Released:** Wilson Palacios, Andy Wilkinson, Thomas Sorensen, Tomi Adeloye, James Alabi, Sam Coulson, Alex Grant, Robbie Parry, Nathan Ricketts-Hopkinson, Adam Thomas, Charlie Ward, Andy Wilkinson, Elliot Wheeler

### SUNDERLAND

Sunderland boss Dick Advocaat's first summer signing was a player who was on loan at the Black Cats last season.

Defender Sebastian Coates was signed from Liverpool for an undisclosed fee after making 13 appearances last term.

The 24-year-old Uruguayan international made just 17 starts in his four years at Liverpool.

Advocaat's predecessor Gus Poyet brought Coates to Wearside in September and he returned from injury to play a key role in the club's successful fight against relegation.

**In:** Sebastian Coates (Liverpool)  
Undisclosed

**Out:** El Hadji Ba (Charlton)  
Undisclosed

**Released:** Wes Brown, Peter Burke, Andrew Cartwright, Joel Dixon, Tom McNamee, Anthony Reveillere

### SWANSEA CITY

Ghana forward Andre Ayew was Garry Monk's first summer signing at the Liberty Stadium.

The man who scored twice for his country at the 2014 World Cup



**NEW CHALLENGE:** Glen Johnson, right, has joined Stoke City.



**ON THE MOVE:** Kieran Trippier, second left, has moved from Burnley to Tottenham.

finals arrived on a free transfer from Marseille.

He netted 13 times for club and country last season, including three goals as Ghana finished runners-up in the Africa Cup of Nations.

Monk then made another raid on the French top flight to sign St Etienne defender Franck Tabanou for over £3m.

The ex-France Under-21 cap can play on the wing but is primarily a left-back, providing competition for Neil Taylor.

Swansea have also signed Swedish goalkeeper Kristoffer

Nordfeldt from Dutch club Heerenveen.

**In:** Andrew Ayew (Marseille) Free  
Kristoffer Nordfeldt (Heerenveen) Undisclosed  
Franck Tabanou (St Etienne) Undisclosed

**Out:** David Cornell (Oldham) Free  
Jazz Richards (Fulham) Undisclosed

**Released:** Alan Tate, Gerhard Tremmel, Thomas Atyeo, Rory Donnelly, Corey Francis, Giancarlo Gallifuoco, Joseph Jones, Kurtis

March, Curtis Obeng, Gareth Owen, Scott Tancock

### TOTTENHAM

All Saints fans know about Toby Alderweireld, who recently completed his move to White Hart Lane.

But Kevin Wimmer is not such a well known name.

The 22-year-old Austrian centre half was Mauricio Pochettino's first close season signing for around £4m from Bundesliga club FC Cologne.

Pochettino's third defensive sign-

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# Premiership Spotlight

## club record move



**LOAN MOVE PERMANENT:** Sebastian Coates, left, has returned to Sunderland.

ing is Burnley's former England youth international Kieran Trippier.

The 24-year-old right back made 145 appearances in three and a half years at Turf Moor after signing from Manchester City.

**In:** Kevin Wimmer (FC Kohn) £4.3m  
Toby Alderweireld (Atletico Madrid) Undisclosed  
Kieran Trippier (Burnley) Undisclosed

**Out:** Etienne Capoue (Watford) Undisclosed  
Lewis Holtby (Hamburg) Undisclosed  
Alexander McQueen (Carlisle) Free  
Paulinho (Guangzhou Evergrande) £9.9m  
Jordan Archer (Millwall) Free

**Released:** Jordan Archer, Cristian Ceballos, Brad Friedel, Bongani Khumalo, Aaron McEneff, Jonathan Miles

### WATFORD

Newly-promoted Watford have signed Lithuania international goalkeeper Giedrius Arlauskis on a free transfer.

The 27-year-old helped Romanian side Steaua Bucharest claim a domestic treble last season.

He was in goal for Lithuania's Euro 2016 qualifier against England at Wembley, in which he conceded a debut goal to Harry Kane.

The Hornets have also signed 29-year-old centre half Sebastian Prodl after his release by Werder Bremen, and Swiss international midfielder Valon Behrami.

Capped over 50 times by his coun-



**RECORD SIGNING:** Etienne Capoue has joined Watford.

try, the 30-year-old has played in Italy for Lazio, Fiorentina and Napoli but signed from Germans Hamburg.

Greek international left back Jose Holebas has also been signed for £1.8m from Serie A club Roma, while French midfielder Etienne Capoue broke the club's transfer record when he arrived from Tottenham for £6m.

Continuing the cosmopolitan nature of Watford's summer recruitment, Czech striker Matej Vydra has completed a permanent move from Udinese.

He struck 16 times in last season's

Championship promotion winning campaign, after hitting 20 second tier goals while on loan two seasons earlier.

In between, he was on loan to West Bromwich Albion in 2013/14 but found goals harder to come by, netting just three in seven Premier League starts plus 16 sub appearances.

**In:** Giedrius Arlauskis (Steaua Bucharest) Free  
Sebastian Prodl (Werder Bremen) Free  
Valon Behrami (Hamburg) Undisclosed

Etienne Capoue (Tottenham) £6m  
Jose Holebas (Roma) £1.8m  
Matej Vydra (Udinese) Undisclosed

**Out:** Jonathan Bond (Reading) Undisclosed

**Released:** Vujadin Savic, Marco Motta, Luke O'Nien

### WEST BROMWICH ALBION

It's been a quiet summer for Baggies boss Tony Pulis so far.

At the time of writing, his only summer signing has been Irish winger James McLean from a Wigan side relegated to the third tier last season.

**In:** James McClean (Wigan) £1.5m

**Out:** Alex Jones (Birmingham) Free  
Donervon Daniels (Wigan) Free  
Jason Davidson (Huddersfield) Free  
Chris Baird (Derby) Free  
Youssef Mulumbu (Norwich) Free  
Bradley Garmston (Gillingham) Free

**Released:** Wesley Atkinson, Aaron Birch, Gareth McAuley, Mani O'Sullivan

### WEST HAM UNITED

Italian international centre half Angelo Ogbonna left Juventus, where he was a regular last season, for £8.5.

Saints were reportedly also interested in the player.

Under new boss Slaven Bilic, expect West Ham to move on from the Sam Allardyce years.

Bilic has shown his ambition by splashing out £10.7million on French international Dimitri Payet from Marseille.

Payet's tally of 17 assists was the best in France and the fourth best in any major European league in 2014/15.

His total of 134 chances created was more than anyone else managed.

Only two other players - Kevin de Bruyne and former Eden Hazard - topped 100.

Spanish midfielder Pedro Obiang is also new in at Upton Park, having been a regular in Serie A with Sampdoria last season.

**In:** Darren Randolph (Birmingham) Transfer  
Pedro Obiang (Sampdoria) £4.3m  
Angelo Ogbonna (Juventus) £8.5m  
Dimitri Payet (Marseille) Undisclosed

**Out:** Dan Potts (Luton Town) Free  
Paul McCallum (Leyton Orient) Free

**Released:** Carlton Cole, Guy Demel, Jussi Jaaskelainen, Nene, Kieran Bywater, Sean Maguire, Paul McCallum

## Did You Know?

RAHEEM Sterling this week completed his protracted move from Liverpool to Manchester City, becoming the club's record signing and the most expensive Englishman in football history.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at seven things you may not know about City's new star man.

### Growing up

Raheem Shaquille Sterling was born on December 8 1994 in Jamaica. He moved with his mother to London aged seven, growing up on a tough housing estate in Brent in the shadow of Wembley. Hardly a model pupil, a schoolteacher once told him "by the time you're 17 you'll either be playing for England, or you'll be in prison."

### Spotted

At the age of 10 Sterling was playing for Oakington Manor School when he was spotted by QPR scout Peter Moring. He signed for the Rangers centre of excellence as an 11-year-old. Moring was paid £50 for his trouble.

### Emerging

A star of QPR's youth teams, Sterling played for the under-18s as a 14-year-old and word quickly spread about this emerging talent. Rangers youth boss Steve Gallen dubbed the team 'Raheem Park Rangers' because of his ability to win games on his own.

### Snapped up

Unfortunately for Rangers, Sterling never played a first-team game for them as Liverpool won the race for his signature, snapping up the 15-year-old - by now an England youth international - for an initial fee of £500,000, rising to around £5million.

### Debut

On 24 March 2012, Sterling made his Liverpool debut as a substitute in a Premier League match against Wigan. Aged 17 years and 107 days, he became the third-youngest player to play for the Reds. He scored his first goal in October that year, securing a 1-0 win over Reading. His England debut came a month later in a 4-2 friendly defeat by Sweden.

### Off the field

Unfortunately Sterling has developed a habit of creating just as many headlines off the field. The striker, who has a daughter from a brief relationship when he was 16, was cleared in court of assaulting a former girlfriend in 2013. Newspaper pictures of Sterling allegedly smoking a shisha pipe, and apparently inhaling nitrous oxide, kept him on the front pages.

### Breakdown.

The breakdown of Sterling's relationship with Liverpool was as dramatic as his rise. In February manager Brendan Rodgers claimed Sterling had been offered an "incredible deal" to stay at Anfield. Two months later Sterling, in an interview with the BBC, confirmed he had turned down a new contract. In May his agent, Aidy Ward, said the player would not sign even for "£900,000 a week". With Manchester City having failed with two bids for Sterling, he attracted further criticism by missing two days of training through illness and reportedly asking not to go on the club's pre-season tour before ultimately being withdrawn in order to push through his move.

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## City hits & misses

RAHEEM Sterling has become the latest Englishman recruited at great expense to join Manchester City's rich pool of talent.

Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at how City have fared in the recent past with some of the home-grown players they have signed.

**JOE HART (£600,000 from Shrewsbury, May 2006)** - Hart has established himself as City's number one goalkeeper despite intense competition in recent years, and is fast approaching 300 appearances for the club (**HIT**).

**SHAUN WRIGHT-PHILLIPS (£9million from Chelsea, August 2008)** - Returned to the blue half of Manchester after leaving for Chelsea in a £21million switch in July 2005, but struggled to rediscover his best form (**MISS**).

**WAYNE BRIDGE (£12million from Chelsea, January 2009)** - Ex-Saint Bridge played just 58 appearances in four and a half years, and the latter part of his stay was spent on loan at West Ham, Sunderland and Brighton before he was allowed to join Reading on a free transfer (**MISS**).

**GARETH BARRY (£12million from Aston Villa, July 2009)** - Barry proved to be a key member of the side, making 175 appearances for the club in his first four seasons before spending the 2013-14 campaign on loan at Everton, whom he later joined on a free transfer (**HIT**).

**JOLEON LESCOTT (£22million from Everton, August 2009)** - Lescott was a regular for much of his five years at the Etihad Stadium, during which he made 160 appearances, but was deemed surplus to requirements amid stiff competition for starting berths last summer (**HIT**).

**ADAM JOHNSON (£7million from Middlesbrough, February 2010)** - Johnson spent two and a half seasons with City, but was a peripheral figure during the latter part of his stay and leapt at the chance to return to his native north-east and join Sunderland in a £10million switch during the summer of 2012 (**MISS**).

**JAMES MILNER (£26million from Aston Villa, August 2010)** - The ever-dependable Milner found new favour with current boss Manuel Pellegrini and left for Liverpool last month having 202 appearances, 87 of them as a substitute, during his five years at the club (**HIT**).

**OWEN HARGREAVES (free from Manchester United, August 2011)** - Viewed by some commentators as a potential bargain when he crossed the Manchester divide, Hargreaves was once again beset by injuries and played just 157 minutes of football (**MISS**).

**JACK RODWELL (£12million from Everton, August 2012)** - Touted as one of the brightest emerging talents in England, Rodwell was repeatedly hampered by injury during his two years at the Etihad, and was used in only 25 games before heading for Sunderland (**MISS**).

**SCOTT SINCLAIR (£6.2million from Swansea, August 2012)** - Another young player who headed for City with a blossoming reputation, Sinclair failed to make an impact with all but three of his 19 appearances coming from the bench (**MISS**).

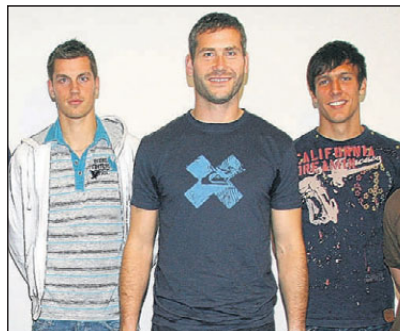
**FRANK LAMPARD (loan from New York City, August 2014)** - Lampard was 36 years old when he arrived in a shock loan deal from partner club New York City last summer, but his eight goals - including a precious equaliser against former club Chelsea and two strikes against Saints - proved his enduring quality (**HIT**).

## Saints Spotlight

### Morgan Schneiderlin's life and times at Saints



Schneiderlin in action early in his Saints career against West Ham in a friendly.



A young Schneiderlin, left, lines up alongside Kelvin Davis and Jack Cork.



Schneiderlin's first red card for Saints, at MK Dons in the JPT semi final in 2010.



Schneiderlin in FA Cup fifth round action v Pompey in February 2010.



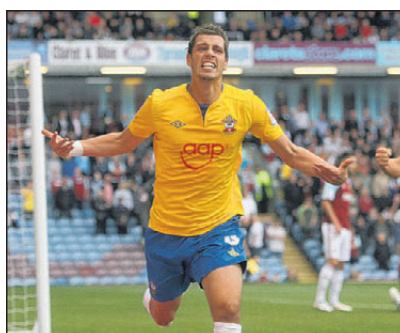
Sent off again, this time at Yeovil in April 2010.



Schneiderlin rues a missed chance as Saints lose to Brentford in December 2010



Welcome to Saints. Jan Poortvliet with Morgan Schneiderlin in June 2008.



Schneiderlin scores for Saints in a 1-1 draw at Burnley in September 2011.



Schneiderlin scores for Saints against Swansea at St Mary's in November 2012.

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# Saints Spotlight



## Morgan Schneiderlin's life and times at Saints



Schneiderlin scores in Saints' 3-1 win over Liverpool at St Mary's in March 2013.



Schneiderlin was booked for this challenge on West Ham's Mo Diame at St Mary's in September 2013.



Schneiderlin has just scored for Saints in a 4-2 home win over Norwich in March 2014.



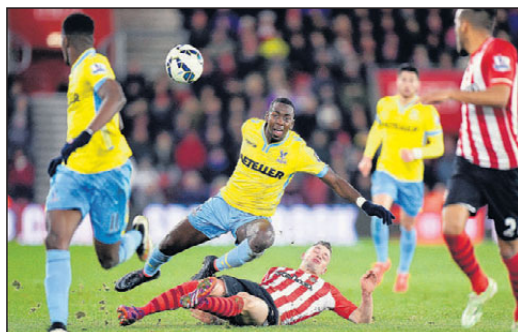
Schneiderlin heads Saints into a 2-1 lead against his new club Manchester United in September 2012.



Schneiderlin curls in a great goal to put the finishing touch on Saints' 4-0 win against Newcastle in 2014.



Schneiderlin has just scored one of his two goals to help Saints beat West Ham 3-1 last August.



Typical Schneiderlin, sliding in to challenge Palace's Yannick Bolasse in March of this year.



Schneiderlin scores what proved to be his last Saints goal, at Stoke in April.



Schneiderlin is spoken to during his last ever game for Saints, against Tottenham at St Mary's in April.

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## Adam Rant



The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH

# Morgan's move to United a huge loss

### Schneiderlin sale could hit Saints hardest of the lot

**MORGAN** **Schneiderlin leaves Southampton with nothing but warm wishes for the future, but his is going to be a very hard act to follow.**

Even with the high turnover of players at St Mary's over the last two summers, nobody has seemed as close to irreplaceable as the Frenchman.

Firstly, it was only right and proper that Schneiderlin was allowed to move to Manchester United.

His talents demand he plays Champions League football, and a £25m fee was a fair price.

Schneiderlin has come a long way from that 18-year-old that first pitched up at Saints in 2008.

Back then he had all the technical ability you could wish for, but was physically not strong enough for English football.

With Saints out of the Premier League the problem was only exacerbated, with less talented sides realising they could kick him out of the game.

However, Alan Pardew showed him the light and Schneiderlin never looked back, developing into a fine defensive midfielder.

He is easily good enough to play for a club the size of United and should shine at Old Trafford.

Schneiderlin looks the natural successor to Michael Carrick, sitting in front of the back four to protect them and building play from there.

We have seen a lot of that over the past seven years at Saints, and to see him compete on an even higher level will be great.

For Saints the challenge is what to do without him.

With all due respect to the other players that have departed this summer and last, nobody else has seemed anywhere near as big a blow.

Luke Shaw, Calum Chambers and Nathaniel Clyne are all full backs.

They are important positions but Saints do not need an absolutely world class left or right back.

Rickie Lambert was a fading force, Dejan Lovren had already gone off the boil before joining Liverpool, and Adam Lallana could be replaced by a variety of styles of player if Saints changed the way they played a little, which they did anyway under a new manager.

Schneiderlin has been the heartbeat of the Saints side for so long.



Morgan Schneiderlin has completed his £25m move from Saints to Manchester United

Eventually Saints would love to qualify for the Champions League, but that's not on the agenda right now.

Here they had a player good enough for that level who has been a

mainstay of the side for many years. He's moved to a Champions League club for £25m, which tells you all you need to know.

It's hard to imagine just how you can comprehend replacing that like-

for-like, and it's in such a vital position.

It's the first time Saints have sold a player in recent years which left you worried they will be weaker as a result.

## Sterling's high price

RAHEEM Sterling has this week become the most expensive English footballer of all time.

Think about that for a moment. Have another moment to get over it.

Sometimes the world of football just seems too crazy to be true but this youngster, who has starred in perhaps 20 games, has just been sold for £49m.

To say that could be overpriced is maybe underplaying things.

Manchester City have staked an awful lot on potential, rather than anything proven.

Sterling has obviously been angling, pushing, for this move for so long.

Now he has got it the pressure will be on him to deliver.

It will be a hard task too because, with the way he has gone about things, there are likely to be plenty hoping he will fall flat on his face.

Football moves on, prices go up, but the most expensive English footballer ever?

When you think of the great names that have gone before him, even in recent times, it just doesn't feel right.

Liverpool, however, must secretly be absolutely delighted with that deal.



Raheem Sterling

## Steadfast cycle star

CHRIS Froome gave a very reasonable reaction after another stunning Tour de France stage victory.

With hacked computer data and the same old questions over doping dominating, he took a mature attitude.

He didn't throw his toys out of the pram, but said he understood why the questions were being asked, and that he had nothing to hide.

Proving you are clean is a far harder process than proving doping, and in cycling there are always understandable suspicions everywhere.

But you have to realise why and deal with it.

It's the only way.



## Adam Rant



The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH

# Federer's battle a sight to behold

Swiss maestro gives brief hope of dream ending

**IT WAS heartbreaking and uplifting at the same time.**

Adam Rant had the absolute privilege of being on Centre Court at Wimbledon for the men's singles final between Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

It was lovely to be there to watch a big sporting event, rather than having to report on it.

As regular readers will be aware, Adam is a rather big fan of Federer, and was desperately hoping the fairytale of his hero winning at the ripe old age of 33 would come to pass.

Turned out he was far from the only one.

The gentle surroundings turned into a cauldron at times, and by the end you actually felt for Djokovic.

The Serbian played fantastically well, and yet no matter how great his efforts a polite round of applause was the best he got, such was the bias towards Federer.

For a few fleeting moments there seemed a chance.

Federer started perfectly, serving well again and got an early break.

That he was immediately broken back sounded warning bells.

After losing the first set tie break it never felt likely. He had to win that first set.

When he stared down the barrel in a second set tie break things looked bleak, but what transpired was one of the greatest breakers in Wimbledon history.

Federer saved seven set points and came back to win it.

The atmosphere was fantastic, the noise unbelievable.

Indeed, having been fortunate enough to sample plenty of great sporting events, it was probably the best in terms of that eruption of noise, and the overall feeling of grandeur and history attached to the day itself.

Djokovic rolled through Federer from there, and the match ended in a rather sad way.

That fleeting moment at the end of the second set tie break was as good as it got, and Djokovic, ruthlessly targeting Federer's backhand, and returning right onto the baseline with unnerving accuracy, was just too good.

At the end he paraded his trophy to a fairly large amount of apathy. Federer received the runners-up plate again to great acclaim.

He really is that rarest of things,



Roger Federer looks dejected following defeat to Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final

a sportsman who draws so many towards him.

It's his style, his demeanour, that way he is on and off the court.

It's the way down the years he has made the almost impossible seem

very achievable.

This was yet another example.

To beat Djokovic, the world number one, to become the oldest winner of the open era, to add an 18th Grand Slam to his collection. These

all seem impossible dreams. For one moment it seemed so real.

In those moments are all of your own hopes and dreams, tangled up with Federer's. It's a potent, and beautiful, combination.

## Serena: a true force

PRETTY much the only person who it seems can defeat Serena Williams is Serena Williams herself.

Her level of dominance in the women's game is of a practically unparalleled level.

It is virtually impossible to match her power, which is the key to her game.

Her first serve is as fast as even many of the top guys are sending down; her forehands are absolutely crushing.

What's more, the way she plays she never takes a step back.

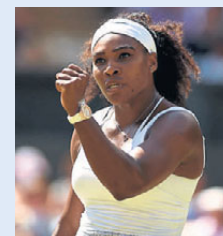
The nearest she really came to defeat at Wimbledon was against Heather Watson, and that was because Williams was misfiring and wouldn't take anything off and change her style.

Her game is so flawless that the only time she really seems to come unstuck is in her mind.

She needs to be hungry and motivated, and if she is then her opponents face an uphill struggle.

It is one that few ever look like getting over, let alone actually achieving it.

But we must reflect while she is still playing that she is an absolute phenomenon, a freakishly dominant player whose records will stand up to scrutiny for years to come.



Serena Williams

## Right call from Carl

CARL Froch has made entirely the right decision by hanging up his gloves.

The Cobra has nothing left to prove in the sport.

He has been an utterly fearless fighter, prepared to get in the ring with anyone, and shown himself to be a real warrior.

Froch has won enough fights, enough titles, against enough great opponents, to walk away and be happy with his legacy.

As well as being a great boxer, Froch has always had a sense of his own worth and his place in the grand scheme of things.

Taking this decision now ensures that is preserved forever more.



# HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



## Liam's in love again

LIAM Dawson has fallen back in love with cricket during his Essex loan spell – but is not sure if it will be extended.

The 25-year-old, who is on a one-month deal, made 99 in this week's LV County Championship win against Glamorgan.

He has 169 runs at 56.3 and has also impressed with the ball (four wickets at 18.2), since asking to go on loan when he was dropped by Hampshire.

"I'm absolutely loving my time here," he told the Brentwood Gazette. "It's been brilliant and I'm delighted to be back playing all forms of cricket."

"A change of scenery and a change of team means that I am really enjoying playing my cricket again."

"I probably haven't bowled as much as I should have done at Hampshire, but hopefully here I can get a lot of overs. I've got the love of playing the game again."

Dawson's loan includes one more Championship match, the last T20 group game and most of their Royal London One-Day Cup matches. But he is unsure whether it will be extended.

"I guess it depends what Hampshire want," he said.



LIAM DAWSON

## Legend at The Bowl

HAMPSHIRE legend Barry Richards will be at The Ageas Bowl on Monday.

The South African will be promoting and signing 'Sundial in the Shade', a biography written by his former Hampshire teammate Andy Murtagh.

Richards, who will be 70 on Tuesday, will be signing copies in the Atrium when the second day of the LV County Championship match against Durham gets underway at 11am. There will be a second opportunity to have copies signed during the tea interval.

Richards' career was restricted to four Tests because of South Africa's ban during the apartheid years.

Test cricket's loss was Hampshire's gain. He scored 15,607 first-class runs at 50.5 from 1968-78 as well as 6,708 limited-overs runs at 39.9.

# The making of Mason Crane

By Simon Walter  
Cricket Reporter

**THERE were few people prouder than Mason Crane's coaches when the 18 year-old made his dramatic entry to Hampshire's first team.**

Crane's call-up was too short notice for former Hampshire slow left-armers Raj Maru and Darren Flint to see the leg-spinner dismiss Kumar Sangakkara and Vikram Solanki in taking 2-35 during last week's T20 Blast win against Surrey at The Ageas Bowl.

But they were not surprised to hear that Crane's debut was, whisper it, the sort that could have been penned by Shane Warne's scriptwriter.

The dismissal of Sangakkara was more rank full toss than Ball of the Century but taking wickets with bad balls was also a knack shared by the Hampshire and Australia legend.

Solanki's exit, stumped by Adam Wheeler, was a more orthodox dismissal for Crane.

For Flint, the baton had been taken. His mind was cast back to June 1995 and the last of his 34 first-class wickets for Hampshire: Solanki, ct Streak by Flint 35.

After nearly 20 years out of the game, he returned to work for the Hampshire academy when the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust and the ECB set up the Elite Spin Programme in 2011. Hampshire are already reaping the dividends.

Two years ago, off-spinner Brad Taylor became the county's youngest debutant since 1867 and Crane has been one to watch since first arriving at Hampshire four years ago.

"Spinners used to take longer to mature, but we now have the contact time to bring kids on faster," explains Flint.

"A lot have been lost to the



Mason Crane in action on the Ageas Bowl's Nursery Ground. INSET: Hampshire Academy spin coach Darren Flint

game early because clubs don't have the patience needed for them to come through. So the idea is to get good coaching into them early."

As an eight-year-old only child glued to the 2005 Ashes series, Shoreham-born Crane was inspired by Warne's mesmerising performances that summer.

He has been hooked on leg-spin ever since.

After joining Worthing CC's colts set-up a decade ago, he was soon playing for Sussex Under-10s and was a regular at county age-group

level for four seasons.

When he was left out of the Sussex Under-14 squad, he was heartbroken, believing the opportunity to do what Mushtaq Ahmed did for the county was gone. But the chance to move to Hampshire arose through Maru, his cricket master at Lancing College.

"I could see he had something special when I first saw him as a 13 year-old," says Maru. "He told me he used to play for Sussex but that they didn't want him any more."

"They said he couldn't field or bat but we realised we could develop that. So we wrote to Sussex and they gave permission for Mason to go to Hampshire."

"A lot of academies seem to label players early on but people develop at different rates, especially leg-spinners."

"We push them too early. They can lose confidence and get left behind, which is why it's important they have the same coach all the way through their development."

Maru ensures that conti-

nunity by overseeing Crane's progress with the help of Flint, who lives in Hedge End, while Hampshire academy director Bobby Parks concentrates on his fielding and batting skills.

"I collaborated with Raj and did a lot of technical work with Mason early on," says Flint, whose full-time job has been with Flint & Flint, the family's flooring company, since leaving Hampshire.

"Mason came to us with two deliveries, his leg-break and a good googly, so it was



# HAMPSHIRE CRICKET 2015



## Felix is in fine fettle

**HAMPSHIRE** teenager Felix Organ struck an unbeaten century as the academy thrashed the Australian women's team at The Ageas Bowl.

The 16 year-old made 101 not out (70 balls, 12 fours and two sixes) as the academy amassed 344-5 in their 50 overs – before winning by 99 runs.

Brad Taylor hit a 91-ball 78 (six fours, one six) while sharing an opening stand of 127 with Elijah Samuel (54).

Captain Andy Gorvin (two) did not last long as Hampshire slipped to 152-3.

But Jake Goodwin hit a run-a-ball 43 (four fours, one six) and Organ, pictured left, held the second half of the innings together.

After losing Josh McCoy for a 16-ball 22, he put on an unbroken 70 from Hampshire's last 27 balls with wicketkeeper-batsman Harry Hovey, who needed only 13 deliveries for his unbeaten 28.

Off-spinner Organ then took 3-63 from his nine overs as the Aussie girls were restricted to 245-8 in reply.

Aussie captain Meg Lanning (59) top scored ahead of the start of the Women's Ashes at Taunton on Wednesday.



Felix Organ (Dave Vokes)

just a case of working hard on developing and disguising more variations.

"He's matured and is in the process of developing a really good slider."

No doubt there will soon be comparisons with the man who introduced the 'slider' to cricket's lexicon, due to the high number of revolutions that Crane imparts on his leg-break.

He is yet to meet former Hampshire captain Warne, but he did benefit from an hour-long tutorial with Imran Tahir last September.

"That was a real master-class," says Maru, who is wary of comparisons with the genius who inspired his protege. "Warne was very different to any leg-spinner in that he had very strong arms wrists and fingers."

"It meant he could walk up to the wicket, but most spinners need the momentum they get from a run-up."

"Although he gets good revs, Mason also knows that it is not the spin that gets wickets, but creating confu-



England U19s Mason Crane, Joe Weatherley and Brad Taylor

sion in the batsman's mind."

After wintering on the England Development Programme, Mason impressed while playing his first three games for England U19s in Australia in April.

His progress of late has been difficult to ignore, his first-team call-up coming on the back of his 5-41 against Sussex in the Second Eleven Championship ten days ago.

"The biggest compliment I hear is when people say they're ready made for second team cricket at 16," says Flint.

"A lot goes into what we do. It's almost like a finishing school before they go to first team or second team cricket."

Constructing dismissals is a skill the aptly named Mason Crane has developed. "It

**EYE ON THE BALL:** Raj Maru took 504 first-class wickets for Hampshire, at a cost of 33 apiece, from 1984-98.

was relatively easy for Mason and Brad to get wickets for their school and even at county age-group level, but they have had to learn how to get good batters out on good wickets," continues Flint.

"It's harder and it takes longer and they're discovering that it almost takes a sixth sense to decipher a batsmen's movements."

Crane and Taylor could soon become a first-team double act. But Liam Dawson's loan move to Essex is a reminder that there is only room for so many spinners in an XI.

"It's going to be interesting to see what transpires," said Flint whose main bugbear is an LV County Championship schedule that is hardly conducive to the development of spinners.

"I'm one of ten coaches in the Elite Spin Programme led by Peter Such and we do try to put our case forward."

"But ten of Hampshire's

16 Championship games have already been played and we're only just coming into the time of year when conditions are at their most favourable for spinners."

Flint is also excited by his younger crop, notably the Organ brothers, Felix and Zac. He is also helping to develop England U19 captain Joe Weatherley's off-spin.

But Maru believes Crane's time is now and that he should already be in Hampshire's Championship side.

"He's exactly what Hampshire need, I'm surprised he didn't play against Worcestershire at New Road two weeks ago," he said.

"It was always going to spin there for [Saeed] Ajmal and [Brett] D'Oliveira, but Hampshire just had Danny Briggs holding an end up. Mason could be doing what Rashid does for Yorkshire."

"His confidence is high. He might go for a few runs but he has five or six variations and he takes wickets."

## Wounded Durham

**DURHAM** will be keen to get their LV County Championship title bid back on track when they arrive at The Ageas Bowl on Sunday.

Paul Collingwood's side was top of the table after thrashing Sussex at Arundel a month ago.

But then came successive defeats against current leaders Yorkshire, by an innings and 47 runs, and Warwickshire, by two wickets.

Durham have struggled for big top-order runs with Scott Borthwick (766 at 42.5) the only batsman to average above 40.

But they have the leading wicket-taker in the county in seamer Chris Rushworth, who has snared 55 victims at a cost of 20.9 apiece.

This will be Dale Benkenstein's first match against his former county as Hampshire coach.



## HAMPSHIRE FIXTURES 2015

## APRIL

**12-15 Sussex (h) Championship:** Sussex 444 (D Briggs 4-74) & 164 (J Tomlinson 4-37, D Briggs 3-27), Hampshire 231 (S Ervine 66no, C Wood 48) & 285 (M Carberry 79). Hampshire lost by 79 runs.

**19-22 Warwickshire (a) Championship:** Hampshire 319 (A Wheeler 74, J Adams 53) & 339 (S Ervine 102, M Carberry 81), Warwick 280 (J Tomlinson 3-53) & 244-5. Match drawn.

**26-29 Nottinghamshire (h) Championship:** Notts 371 (G Berg 3-88, A Adams 3-93) & 296-4, Hampshire 276 (J Adams 61) & 29-0. Match drawn.

## MAY

**10-13 Yorkshire (Headingley) Championship:** Yorkshire 370 (J Tomlinson 4-86) & 304-4, Hampshire 227 (M Carberry 97) & 143 (W Smith 64no). Hampshire lost by 305 runs.

**15 Essex (h) T20:** Hampshire 173-4 (J Adams 55no), Essex 156 (Yasir Arafat 3-27). Hampshire won by 17 runs.

**17-20 Middlesex (h) Championship:** Hampshire 413 (W Smith 93, M Carberry 67, J Adams 61, G Berg 50) & 185-5 (M Carberry 57), Middlesex 382 (F Edwards 4-100).

**22 Kent (h). T20:** Hampshire 172-6 (J Vince 66), Kent 178-5. Hampshire lost by five wickets

**29 Glamorgan (Swalec). T20:** Hampshire 148-8 (S Ervine 49), Glamorgan 127 (C Wood 4-16). Hampshire won by 21 runs.



Gareth Berg

**31-3 Worcestershire (h) Championship:** Hampshire 222 (J Adams 48) & 245-6 (W Smith 64no, A Wheeler 52, J Adams 47), Worcestershire 403-5. Drawn.

## JUNE

**4 Middlesex (h) T20.** Hampshire 172-3 (O Shah 58no, M Carberry 57), Middlesex 153-6. Hampshire won by 19 runs.

**5 Somerset (Taunton). T20.** Hampshire 167-3 (J Vince 64no), Somerset 173-2. Hampshire lost by eight wickets.

**7-10 Sussex (Hove) Championship.** Sussex 251 (G Berg 4-67) & 266 (F Edwards 5-58), Hampshire 392 (A Wheeler 111, G Berg 99) & 126-4 (S Terry 62no). Hampshire won by six wickets.

**12 Kent (Canterbury) T20.** Kent 183-5, Hampshire 187-4 (J Vince 99no). Hants won by six wickets.

**18 Middlesex (Lord's) T20.** Hampshire 199-5 (M Carberry 72, O Shah 64), Middlesex 178. Hants won by 21 runs.

**19 Sussex (h) T20.** Hampshire 157-6 (J Vince 41), Sussex 158-3. Hants lost by seven wickets.

Continued on facing page

## Hampshire v Durham nostalgia

**HAMPSHIRE are desperate to end their Championship losing run when they host Durham in a top flight clash starting on Sunday.**

Jimmy Adams' men have suffered three crushing defeats in a row, losing to Somerset and Middlesex by nine wickets before an innings reverse at Worcestershire last time out.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at the five occasions Hampshire have beaten Durham in a first class fixture on their own soil.

The first and last times both came at Basingstoke's May's Bounty ground.

Back in June 2000, the visitors failed to make 100 in either innings as Hampshire coasted to an emphatic victory.

**PPP Healthcare County Championship Division 1**  
**May's Bounty, Basingstoke, June 2000**

**Hampshire first innings**  
GW White c Collingwood b Harmison .....29  
AJ Sexton lbw b Betts .....36  
WS Kendall c Phillips b Collingwood .....42  
\*RA Smith c Speight b Collingwood .....43  
DA Kenway lbw b Brown .....47  
+AN Aymes lbw b Brown .....40  
AD Mascarenhas c Speight b Wood .....27  
SK Warne c Speight b Brown .....0  
SD Udall c Speight b Brown .....35  
AD Mullally lbw b Betts .....0  
SRG Francis not out .....5  
Extras (16 lb, 18 nb, 2 w) .....36  
**Total (all out, 128.1 overs) .....340**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-62 (White), 2-104 (Sexton), 3-171 (Kendall), 4-176 (Smith), 5-271 (Aymes), 6-272 (Kenway), 7-274 (Warne), 8-315 (Mascarenhas), 9-324 (Mullally), 10-340 (Udall, 128.1 ov)

**Durham bowling:** Brown 22.1-3-62-4, Harmison 19-6-33-1, Betts 32-9-76-2, Wood 24-4-94-1, Phillips 13-4-23-0, Collingwood 15-5-34-2-1, Katich 3-1-2-0

**Durham first innings**  
JJB Lewis c White b Mullally .....0  
N Peng c Kendall b Mascarenhas .....0  
SM Katich lbw b Mascarenhas .....2  
PD Collingwood c Warne b Mascarenhas .....6  
\*NJ Speak c Sexton b Warne .....22  
+MP Speight c Kendall b Mullally .....12  
NC Phillips lbw b Mullally .....11  
J Wood c Aymes b Warne .....12  
MM Betts b Warne .....12  
SJE Brown c Mascarenhas b Warne .....1  
SJ Harmison not out .....0  
Extras (1 b, 4 lb, 2 w) .....7  
**Total (all out, 49.4 overs) .....83**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-0 (Lewis), 2-7 (Katich), 3-13 (Collingwood), 4-22 (Peng), 5-51 (Speak), 6-52 (Phillips), 7-67 (Speight), 8-71 (Wood), 9-82 (Betts), 10-83 (Brown, 49.4 ov)

**Hampshire bowling:** Mullally 17-9-18-3, Francis 4-2-6-0, Mascarenhas 8-3-17-3, Warne 18-4-7-34-4, Udall 2-1-3-0

**Durham second innings (following on)**

JJB Lewis c Kendall b Mullally .....3  
N Peng lbw b Udall .....0  
MM Betts lbw b Mullally .....23  
SM Katich c Kendall b Warne .....26  
PD Collingwood c White b Udall .....13  
\*NJ Speak c Aymes b Warne .....6  
+MP Speight b Warne .....17  
NC Phillips c Kendall b Warne .....2  
J Wood c Mascarenhas b Udall .....1  
SJE Brown not out .....2  
SJ Harmison absent hurt .....0  
Extras .....0  
**Total (all out, 42.3 overs) .....93**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-1 (Peng), 2-12 (Lewis), 3-31 (Betts), 4-59 (Collingwood), 5-66 (Speak), 6-77 (Katich), 7-90 (Speight), 8-91 (Phillips), 9-93 (Wood, 42.3 ov)

**Hampshire bowling:** Mullally 7-3-12-2, Francis 4-2-10-0, Udall 14-3-2-35-3, Warne 11-2-22-4, Mascarenhas 6-1-14-0  
**Hampshire won by an innings and 164 runs**

Chris Tremlett cleaned up the tail when Hampshire won by 47 runs in the summer of 2001 after trailing by 20 runs on first innings.

**CricInfo Championship Division 2**  
**The Rose Bowl, June 2001**

**Hampshire first innings**  
GW White c Pratt b Law .....41  
DA Kenway b Hatch .....15  
WS Kendall c Love b Hatch .....2  
\*RA Smith c Peng b Brown .....13  
NC Johnson lbw b Law .....32  
LR Prittpaul c Pratt b Law .....6  
AD Mascarenhas b Brown .....7  
+AN Aymes c Love b Law .....41  
SD Udall c Gough b Law .....7  
AC Morris c Hatch b Law .....59  
CT Tremlett not out .....1  
Extras (6 lb, 16 w) .....22  
**Total (all out, 70.3 overs) .....246**



Shane Warne was instrumental in a handful of Hampshire home wins against Durham.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-32 (Kenway), 2-34 (Kendall), 3-55 (Smith), 4-115 (Johnson), 5-125 (Prittpaul), 6-132 (White), 7-138 (Mascarenhas), 8-149 (Udall), 9-241 (Morris), 10-246 (Aymes, 70.3 ov)

**Durham bowling:** Brown 18-4-62-2, Hatch 12-2-55-2, Hunter 5-1-36-0, Law 16-3-4-53-6, Phillips 13-2-28-0, Gough 3-1-6-0

**Durham first innings**

\*JJB Lewis c Kenway b Tremlett .....62  
MA Gough b Mascarenhas .....24  
ML Love lbw b Udall .....78  
MP Speight lbw b Tremlett .....9  
N Peng c Kendall b Johnson .....15  
DR Law c Aymes b Johnson .....0  
+A Pratt c and b Tremlett .....17  
ID Hunter c Johnson b Udall .....0  
NC Phillips c Prittpaul b Udall .....1  
SJE Brown c Mascarenhas b Morris .....29  
NG Hatch not out .....16  
Extras (1 b, 8 lb, 4 nb, 2 w) .....15  
**Total (all out, 82.2 overs) .....266**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-55 (Gough), 2-141 (Lewis), 3-157 (Speight), 4-187 (Peng), 5-187 (Law), 6-205 (Love), 7-205 (Hunter), 8-221 (Pratt), 9-221 (Phillips), 10-266 (Brown, 82.2 ov)

**Hampshire bowling:** Tremlett 21-8-43-3, Morris 16-2-53-1, Mascarenhas 15-1-41-1, Johnson 12-3-45-2, Udall 18-5-75-3

**Hampshire second innings**

DA Kenway b Brown .....20  
GW White c Love b Phillips .....44  
WS Kendall b Hatch .....14  
\*RA Smith lbw b Hatch .....1  
NC Johnson not out .....86  
LR Prittpaul st Pratt b Phillips .....4  
AD Mascarenhas run out (Lewis) .....6  
+AN Aymes c Phillips b Law .....27  
SD Udall b Brown .....27  
AC Morris lbw b Hatch .....9

CT Tremlett lbw b Brown .....1  
Extras (6 b, 5 lb, 6 w) .....17  
**Total (all out, 79.2 overs) .....230**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-24 (Kenway), 2-64 (Kendall), 3-76 (Smith), 4-88 (White), 5-96 (Prittpaul), 6-104 (Mascarenhas), 7-105 (Aymes), 8-189 (Udall), 9-215 (Morris), 10-230 (Tremlett, 79.2 ov)

**Durham bowling:** Brown 14-2-4-31-3, Hatch 13-3-42-3, Law 20-4-41-1, Hunter 10-1-35-0, Phillips 22-7-70-2

**Durham second innings**

\*JJB Lewis c Prittpaul b Johnson .....38  
MA Gough c and b Morris .....9  
ML Love c Johnson b Mascarenhas .....9  
MP Speight b Johnson .....21  
N Peng c White b Mascarenhas .....49  
DR Law c Kenway b Udall .....7  
+A Pratt b Tremlett .....7  
ID Hunter c and b Tremlett .....0  
NC Phillips not out .....11  
SJE Brown c Aymes b Tremlett .....0  
NG Hatch c Aymes b Tremlett .....0  
Extras (2 b, 6 lb, 4 nb) .....12  
**Total (all out, 51 overs) .....163**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-17 (Gough), 2-34 (Love), 3-74 (Lewis), 4-95 (Speight), 5-120 (Law), 6-145 (Pratt), 7-145 (Hunter), 8-159 (Peng), 9-163 (Brown), 10-163 (Hatch, 51 ov)

**Hampshire bowling:** Morris 10-2-34-1, Tremlett 12-5-34-4, Mascarenhas 13-5-22-2, Udall 10-1-38-1, Johnson 6-1-27-2

**Hampshire won by 47 runs**

Will Kendall and Dimi Mascarenhas were Hampshire's batting heroes when they sneaked past Durham by three wickets in 2004.

Set just 112 for victory, the hosts slipped to 52-7 before Kendall (31no)

and Mascarenhas (33no) settled nerves en route to Hampshire's second tier promotion.

**Frizzell County Championship 2004 Division 2**  
**The Rose Bowl, April 2004**

**Durham first innings**

\*JJB Lewis c Pothas b Tremlett .....3  
MJ North c Taylor b Warne .....29  
GJ Mutchall c Warne b Mullally .....0  
GJ Pratt c Warne b Mascarenhas .....13  
N Peng lbw b Taylor .....49  
GM Hamilton c Brown b Mascarenhas .....6  
+A Pratt c and b Mascarenhas .....0  
GD Bridge c Warne b Tremlett .....3  
LE Plunkett not out .....15  
M Davies c Brown b Taylor .....0  
RD King lbw b Warne .....0  
Extras (3 b, 5 lb, 2 nb) .....10  
**Total (all out, 54.3 overs) .....128**  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-3 (Lewis), 2-6 (Mutchall), 3-30 (GJ Pratt), 4-65 (North), 5-83 (Hamilton), 6-85 (A Pratt), 7-88 (Bridge), 8-123 (Peng), 9-127 (Davies), 10-128 (King, 54.3 ov)

**Hampshire bowling:** Mullally 12-3-26-1, Tremlett 11-6-10-2, Taylor 10-5-23-2, Mascarenhas 12-5-28-3, Warne 8-3-1-27-2, Clarke 1-0-6-0

**Hampshire first innings**

DA Kenway c North b Davies .....35  
MJ Brown c A Pratt b Davies .....28  
JP Crawley c GJ Pratt b King .....35  
MJ Clarke c GJ Pratt b Davies .....75  
WS Kendall c Mutchall b King .....0  
+N Pothas lbw b Davies .....10  
AD Mascarenhas c Mutchall b Plunkett .....3  
\*SK Warne c King b Plunkett .....3  
CT Tremlett not out .....8  
BV Taylor c Lewis b Davies .....5

SPORTS PINK - ALWAYS BEST FOR HAMPSHIRE NOSTALGIA



# Hampshire v Durham nostalgia



Sean Ervine's great innings helped Hampshire beat Durham at Basingstoke in 2008.

AD Mullally c Lewis b Davies .....5  
Extras (6 lb, 6 nb, 2 w) .....14  
**Total (all out, 56.2 overs) .....221**  
Fall of wickets: 1-55 (Kenway), 2-80 (Brown), 3-165 (Crawley), 4-167 (Kendall), 5-192 (Pothas), 6-199 (Clarke), 7-203 (Mascarenhas), 8-203 (Warne), 9-208 (Taylor), 10-221 (Mullally, 56.2 ov)  
**Durham bowling:** King 11-1-65-2, Plunkett 17-4-66-2, Davies 17-2-7-53-6, Hamilton 6-1-19-0, Bridge 5-1-12-0

**Durham second innings**  
\*JJB Lewis c Pothas b Tremlett .....50  
MJ North lbw b Tremlett .....4  
GJ Mutchall lbw b Mullally .....1  
GJ Pratt c Clarke b Mullally .....4  
N Peng b Warne .....66  
GM Hamilton b Warne .....15  
+A Pratt c Kendall b Mascarenhas .....20  
GD Bridge b Warne .....6  
LE Plunkett c Tremlett b Warne .....21  
M Davies not out .....6  
RD King b Warne .....0  
Extras (7 b, 1 w) .....8  
**Total (all out, 85 overs) .....201**  
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (North), 2-11 (Mutchall), 3-19 (GJ Pratt), 4-130 (Peng), 5-130 (Lewis), 6-164 (Hamilton), 7-168 (A Pratt), 8-190 (Bridge), 9-199 (Plunkett), 10-201 (King, 85 ov)  
**Hampshire bowling:** Mullally 10-4-33-2, Tremlett 16-3-42-2, Mascarenhas 17-10-13-1, Warne 29-8-68-5, Clarke 6-1-24-0, Taylor 7-2-14-0

**Hampshire second innings**  
DA Kenway lbw b Davies .....9  
MJ Brown c Hamilton b Plunkett .....0  
BV Taylor c A Pratt b Plunkett .....9  
CT Tremlett b Davies .....10  
JP Crawley lbw b Plunkett .....0  
MJ Clarke b Plunkett .....0  
WS Kendall not out .....31  
+N Pothas lbw b Davies .....11

AD Mascarenhas not out .....33  
Extras (7 lb, 2 nb) .....9  
**Total (7 wickets, 37.2 overs) .....112**  
Fall of wickets: 1-11 (Brown), 2-13 (Kenway), 3-23 (Tremlett), 4-24 (Crawley), 5-26 (Clarke), 6-39 (Taylor), 7-52 (Pothas)  
**Durham bowling:** Plunkett 18-5-48-4, Davies 15-7-34-3, King 3-2-0-21-0, Hamilton 1-0-2-0  
**Hampshire won by 3 wickets**

Shane Warne's five wicket haul helped Hampshire win a close encounter in 2007 after they had again trailed on first innings.

## LV County Championship 2007 Division 1 The Rose Bowl, June 2007

**Hampshire first innings**  
MA Carberry b Wiseman .....30  
MJ Brown lbw b Onions .....0  
JP Crawley b Onions .....0  
MJ Lumb lbw b Wiseman .....22  
CC Benham c Di Venuto b Gibson .....22  
+N Pothas c Wiseman b Davies .....29  
CT Tremlett lbw b Onions .....3  
AD Mascarenhas b Plunkett .....34  
\*SK Warne c Plunkett b Davies .....4  
SR Clark c Gibson b Plunkett .....17  
JTA Bruce not out .....23  
Extras (1 b, 10 lb, 10 nb, 2 w) .....23  
**Total (all out, 82.1 overs) .....232**  
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Brown), 2-1 (Crawley), 3-83 (Carberry), 4-137 (Benham), 5-145 (Lumb), 6-166 (Tremlett), 7-187 (Pothas), 8-191 (Warne), 9-230 (Clark), 10-232 (Mascarenhas, 82.1 ov)  
**Durham bowling:** Onions 21-6-61-3, Plunkett 20.1-7-57-2, Davies 12-0-32-2, Gibson 19-5-48-1, Wiseman 10-2-23-2

**Durham first innings**  
MJ Di Venuto c Brown b Clark .....124  
WR Smith lbw b Warne .....28  
GJ Mutchall lbw b Warne .....59  
SB Styris c Pothas b Warne .....6  
\*DM Benkenstein lbw b Tremlett .....9  
+P Mustard lbw b Tremlett .....33  
OD Gibson not out .....33  
LE Plunkett lbw b Warne .....2  
PJ Wiseman lbw b Tremlett .....2  
M Davies c Benham b Warne .....3  
G Onions st Pothas b Warne .....1  
Extras (5 b, 1 lb, 8 nb, 1 w, 5 pen) .....20  
**Total (all out, 77.1 overs) .....268**  
Fall of wickets: 1-116 (Smith), 2-210 (Di Venuto), 3-226 (Mutchall), 4-227 (Styris), 5-230 (Mustard), 6-237 (Benkenstein), 7-247 (Plunkett), 8-250 (Wiseman), 9-277 (Davies), 10-283 (Onions, 77.1 ov)  
**Hampshire bowling:** Clark 13-3-48-1, Bruce 9-0-52-0, Mascarenhas 7-1-22-0, Tremlett 21-4-63-3, Warne 26.1-3-83-6, Carberry 1-0-9-0

**Hampshire second innings**  
MA Carberry b Onions .....6  
MJ Brown c Mutchall b Wiseman .....59  
JP Crawley b Davies .....23  
MJ Lumb c Mustard b Davies .....7  
CC Benham b Davies .....15  
+N Pothas c Mustard b Davies .....0  
AD Mascarenhas c Mustard b Plunkett .....60  
\*SK Warne c Smith b Onions .....33  
CT Tremlett not out .....82  
SR Clark b Plunkett .....16  
JTA Bruce not out .....11  
Extras (4 b, 5 lb, 2 nb, 6 w) .....17  
**Total (9 wickets, declared, 79 overs) .....309**  
Fall of wickets: 1-8 (Carberry), 2-52 (Crawley), 3-68 (Lumb), 4-98 (Benham), 5-98 (Pothas), 6-134 (Brown), 7-179 (Warne), 8-251 (Mascarenhas), 9-273 (Clark)  
**Durham bowling:** Onions 13-0-55-2, Plunkett 20-4-79-2, Davies 19-5-48-4, Gibson 17-3-50-0, Wiseman 9-0-

67-1, Styris 1-0-1-0

**Durham second innings**  
WR Smith lbw b Warne .....41  
MJ Di Venuto c Crawley b Tremlett .....50  
GJ Mutchall lbw b Warne .....9  
SB Styris lbw b Warne .....41  
\*DM Benkenstein c Benham b Warne .....1  
+P Mustard c Warne b Clark .....21  
OD Gibson lbw b Warne .....0  
LE Plunkett c Warne b Tremlett .....15  
PJ Wiseman not out .....2  
M Davies c Benham b Tremlett .....0  
G Onions c Benham b Tremlett .....0  
Extras (6 b, 3 lb, 12 nb, 2 w) .....23  
**Total (all out, 55 overs) .....203**  
Fall of wickets: 1-83 (Di Venuto), 2-94 (Mutchall), 3-115 (Smith), 4-123 (Benkenstein), 5-173 (Mustard), 6-174 (Gibson), 7-189 (Styris), 8-201 (Plunkett), 9-201 (Davies), 10-203 (Onions, 55 ov)  
**Hampshire bowling:** Clark 16-4-56-1, Bruce 4-0-28-0, Mascarenhas 3-1-13-0, Tremlett 12-2-47-4, Warne 20-5-50-5  
**Hampshire won by 50 runs**

After Hampshire had been skittled for 86 in their first innings, Sean Ervine's unbeaten 94 helped them to a famous victory seven years ago.

## LV County Championship 2008 Division 1 May's Bounty, Basingstoke, August 2008

**Durham first innings**  
MJ Di Venuto c Ervine b Tomlinson .....0  
MD Stoneman c Lumb b Mascarenhas .....2  
WR Smith c and b Imran Tahir .....70  
S Chanderpaul c Benham b Mascarenhas .....11  
\*DM Benkenstein c Pothas b Balcombe .....6  
+P Mustard lbw b Mascarenhas .....22  
PJ Wiseman c and b Mascarenhas .....22  
LE Plunkett b Mascarenhas .....3  
CD Thorp b Imran Tahir .....28  
G Onions b Imran Tahir .....6  
M Davies not out .....2  
Extras (6 lb) .....6  
**Total (all out, 214 minutes, 56.1 overs) .....156**  
Fall of wickets: 1-0 (Di Venuto), 2-2 (Stoneman), 3-26 (Chanderpaul), 4-47 (Benkenstein), 5-48 (Mustard), 6-86 (Wiseman), 7-96 (Plunkett), 8-139 (Thorp), 9-151 (Onions), 10-156 (Smith, 56.1 ov)  
**Hampshire bowling:** Tomlinson 18-6-48-1, Mascarenhas 23-10-46-5, Balcombe 11-2-51-1, Imran Tahir 4.1-1-5-3.

**Hampshire first innings**  
MA Carberry lbw b Davies .....22  
JHK Adams c Plunkett b Davies .....26  
MJ Lumb c Di Venuto b Wiseman .....5  
CC Benham c Mustard b Davies .....11  
SM Ervine lbw b Davies .....0  
+N Pothas lbw b Davies .....0  
LA Dawson lbw b Thorp .....0  
DJ Balcombe b Davies .....0  
\*AD Mascarenhas b Davies .....26  
Imran Tahir b Davies .....0  
JA Tomlinson not out .....1  
Extras (4 b, 1 lb) .....5  
**Total (all out, 170 minutes, 40.3 overs) .....96**  
Fall of wickets: 1-48 (Carberry), 2-49 (Adams), 3-65 (Benham), 4-65 (Ervine), 5-65 (Lumb), 6-65 (Pothas), 7-65 (Dawson), 8-75 (Balcombe), 9-75 (Imran Tahir), 10-96 (Mascarenhas, 40.3 ov)  
**Durham bowling:** Onions 7-3-16-0, Thorp 10-2-39-1, Davies 13-3-7-24-8, Plunkett 7-3-12-0, Wiseman 3-3-0-1.

**Durham second innings**  
MD Stoneman c Benham b Mascarenhas .....15  
MJ Di Venuto lbw b Tomlinson .....0  
WR Smith lbw b Tomlinson .....20  
S Chanderpaul c Benham b Tomlinson .....38  
\*DM Benkenstein c and b Imran Tahir .....24  
+P Mustard c Adams b Tomlinson .....10  
PJ Wiseman lbw b Imran Tahir .....29  
LE Plunkett c Adams b Imran Tahir .....2  
CD Thorp c Lumb b Tomlinson .....0  
G Onions c Benham b Imran Tahir .....28  
M Davies not out .....10  
Extras (1 b, 1 lb, 1 w) .....3  
**Total (all out, 201 minutes, 55.1 overs) .....179**  
Fall of wickets: 1-5 (Di Venuto), 2-36 (Smith), 3-40 (Stoneman), 4-81 (Benkenstein), 5-103 (Mustard), 6-108 (Chanderpaul), 7-111 (Plunkett), 8-116 (Thorp), 9-163 (Onions), 10-179 (Wiseman, 55.1 ov)  
**Hampshire bowling:** Tomlinson 16-2-62-5, Mascarenhas 12-2-32-1, Balcombe 7-1-30-0, Imran Tahir 20.1-4-53-4

**Hampshire second innings**  
MA Carberry c Mustard b Davies .....15  
JHK Adams lbw b Thorp .....8  
MJ Lumb lbw b Thorp .....9  
CC Benham c Mustard b Thorp .....16  
SM Ervine not out .....94  
+N Pothas c Plunkett b Wiseman .....14  
LA Dawson c Benkenstein b Wiseman .....28  
\*AD Mascarenhas b Davies .....26  
DJ Balcombe c Di Venuto b Davies .....6  
Imran Tahir not out .....8  
Extras (6 b, 5 lb, 4 nb, 1 w) .....24  
**Total (8 wickets, 283 minutes, 73.4 overs) .....240**  
Fall of wickets: 1-20 (Adams), 2-34 (Carberry), 3-34 (Lumb), 4-53 (Benham), 5-77 (Pothas), 6-171 (Dawson), 7-209 (Mascarenhas), 8-219 (Balcombe)  
Durham bowling: Onions 10-4-1-52-0, Thorp 15-3-35-3, Davies 20-4-51-3, Wiseman 17-4-38-2, Plunkett 7-0-40-0, Benkenstein 4-0-13-0  
**Hampshire won by 2 wickets**



Joe Gattling

## HAMPSHIRE FIXTURES 2015

from facing page

**21 Somerset (h) Championship.** Somerset 346 (G Berg 4-64) & 64-1, Hampshire 147 & 262 (G Berg 86). Hampshire lost by nine wickets.

**26 Essex (Chelmsford) T20.** Essex 212-5, Hampshire 134. Hants lost by 78 runs.

**28-1 Middlesex (Lord's) Championship.** Hampshire 176 (J Gattling 64) & 227 (S Terry 52, A Wheeler 50), Middlesex 330 (B Wheel 4-101) & 77-1. Hampshire lost by nine wickets.

## JULY

**3 Glamorgan (h) T20.** Glamorgan 181-7 (Berg 3-34), Hampshire 158-6 (M Carberry 70). Hants lost by 23 runs.

**6-9 Worcestershire (New Road) Championship:** Worcestershire 478 (J Bird 4-164), Hampshire 183 (J Vince 56, W Smith 51no) & 262 (J Gattling 59). Hants lost by an innings and 33 runs.

**10 Surrey (h) T20.** Hampshire 186-5 (A Wheeler 78), Surrey 157-9 (D Briggs 3-21). Hants won by 29 runs.

**14 Gloucestershire (Cheltenham) T20.** Hampshire 116, Gloucestershire 117-5. Hants lost by five wickets

17 Sussex (Hove) .....T20 – f

19-22 Durham (h) .....CC

23 Somerset (h) .....T20 – f

27 Sussex (h) .....50L – f

30 Kent (Canterbury) .....50L – f

## AUGUST

1 Middlesex (h) .....50L

2 Glamorgan (Swalec) .....50L

4 Essex (h) .....50L – f

5 Warwickshire (Edgbaston) ...50L – f

7-10 Warwickshire (h) .....CC

17 Lancashire (h) .....50L – f

19 Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge) 50L – f

## SEPTEMBER

1-4 Durham (Riverside) .....LVCC

9-12 Somerset (Taunton) .....CC

14-17 Yorkshire (h) .....CC

22-25 Nottinghamshire (Trent Bridge) CC

Key LVCC: LV County Championship T20: Twenty20  
50L: Royal London One-Day Cup f: floodlit

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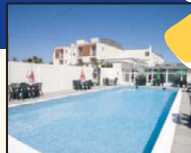
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# LOCAL CRICKET

## TOP TWO STAY ON TRACK

**FAIR OAK and Ryde are currently favourites to fill the top two places in the Hampshire League and knock on the door for Premier League admission next season.**

Fair Oak made it 10 out of 10 with a 72-run win over Burridge, who chased down a staggering 307 to beat OTs & Romsey a week earlier.

Lightning didn't strike twice as four-wicket returns by Andy Mash and Charlie Gwynn ensured Oaks defended 207 before bowling Burridge out for 135.

Ryde have lost twice, but enjoy a comfortable points lead over Shrewton and fourth placed OTs & Romsey II. Hook, though, can never be written off and they gave it a decent crack with Graham Buckingham (60) a threat until three-wicket pair Laurence Tolfrey and Harry Bradley contained their response to 252-9.

Ventnor to Shrewton is probably as bad as it gets in terms of HCL travel – and a distinct shortage of senior Steephill regulars made the arduous trip which began at 7.30am and ended close on midnight.

Nine teenagers made the nightmare journey, which saw Shrewton make a mere 403-4 and Ventnor suffer an ignominious 247-run defeat.

Tim Barnett (129) and Will Sleeman (110) filled their boots as Ventnor used 11 bowlers in an unsuccessful attempt to stem a 403-4 run tide.

Beating Hayling Island at Steephill today will be crucial to Ventnor's CD1 survival prospects.



Tom Huckenhull faces the bowling of Joe Holton as Fair Oak take on Burridge at the Fair Oak Cricket ground

Max Smith hit 109 for OTR against St Cross Symondians, who came back with 257-7 after Romsey had posted 307-5 (Shane Vidler 78).

Beaten by four wickets by a Josh Spiers (92) inspired Purbrook, Sarisbury Athletic are falling away from the promotion picture.

Locks Heath are in transition and

starting a rebuilding phase. Relegation beckons too – last week's disappointing four-wicket defeat by local rivals Fareham & Crofton heightening their concerns.

Arguably better known locally for his prowess at hockey, Luke Cornish followed up a 3-42 return with the ball with a match winning 51 not out,

which got the visitors across the line with four balls to spare.

Portchester got the better of Ellingham courtesy of Harry Roberts (90), while Ropley enhanced their survival prospects when Alex Spicer (68) and Tom Wood (50) enabled them to chase down Portsmouth & Southsea's 209.

## Sam's the man for Cadnam

SAM Godfrey made Cadnam's highest Hampshire League score when he rattled up a boundary-strewn 174 against County Division 2 rivals Southampton Community at Lambs Corner.

He hit two sixes and 25 fours, sharing century partnerships with Stuart Walter (48) and Will Millard, who made 55 not out as Cadnam marched to 319-4. Southampton Community made 226 (Shammas 118).

Godfrey was among a staggering 31 Hampshire League cricketers who made hundreds at the weekend.

Farley's Mike Covill hit 210 against Sway II, whose fourth team conceded a mammoth 402 against Lytchett.

Hampshire Seniors' Max Smith hit 109 for OTs & Romsey II, while Tim Barnett (129) and Will Sleeman (110) were in form for Shrewton.



Sam Godfrey hit 174

## Scott sits out party

ALTON celebrated their 150th Southern Electric Premier Division match at Burridge today.

But one previously ever present member of their side was forced to miss the celebrations.

Skipper Scott Myers had the remarkable attendance record of having played in every one of Alton's previous 149 matches, impressively racking up close on 3,500 runs and three centuries in the process.

But instead of tossing the coin at Botley Road this morning, he was in San Diego on business, doubtless taking advantage of the time difference to keep a beady eye on how his Alton charges were getting on back at home.

Julian Ballinger was the man with big boots to fill as he skippered Alton instead.



Josh McCoy in destructive form with the bat for Hampshire Academy

## McCoy's crisp batting sends Academy to Twenty20 semi

BASHLEY (Rydal) or St Cross Symondians will complete the make-up for the up-coming Southern Electric Twenty20 Cup semi-finals, *writes Mike Vimpany.*

They go head-to-head in the last remaining third round tie at the BCG next Sunday (3pm), with the winners away to Havant on August 2.

The other semi-final sees double winners South Wilts face the Hampshire Academy – that tie being set for the Ageas Bowl Nursery Ground next Sunday, with a 4pm start.

Fielding a side made up of Academy scholars and young Emerging Player Performance (EPP) aspirants, the Academy powered past Sarisbury Athletic, thereby completing a 24-hour league and cup double over the Premier Division new boys.

Although they've never made it as far as a floodlit final, Sarisbury boast a decent t20 record – but their prospects of lighting up the Ageas Bowl on August 18 were effectively destroyed inside the opening ten overs.

Josh McCoy (65) and Brad Taylor (45) went off at 11 an over as the openers provided the Academy a 103-run start, which Ben Caldera (25) and Felix Or-

gan (22 not out) later swelled to 191-5.

Sarisbury needed one of their top order to provide a score, but it didn't happen and from 47-4 and soon after 71-5 it was effectively game over.

The county youngsters held on to their catches – none more so than 15-year old Harry Gadd who took a screamer off Dave Banks to earn Mason Crane (2-27) his second victim.

Ryan Covey (36) and Jack Lovett (24) improved Sarisbury's lot with an unbroken 65-run partnership, but by then it was too little too late. They closed 151-7, 40 runs adrift.

Next Sunday's semi-final – which will probably see rested duo Joe Weatherley and Tom Alsop return to the Academy ranks – is timely for South Wilts in their preparation for the ECB t20 on August.

Since Bournemouth lifted the trophy in 2009, SPL clubs have enjoyed little success in the national competition.

Bashley (Rydal) made an ill-fated visit to Preston Nomads, while South Wilts' trip to Horsham last season coincided with West Sussex being hit by the tail end of a hurricane and the regional finals decided in a farcical 'ten-ten' affair.





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### The 2005 ashes recalled

#### FIRST TEST, LORD'S - AUSTRALIA WON BY 239 RUNS

England were under orders, from all those who professed to know, that they must get in their retaliation first.

So they do, bowling the tourists out for only 190 - with back-to-form Steve Harmison taking five wickets.

Unfortunately, despite a half-century on debut for Kevin Pietersen, the home batting fluffs its lines and concedes a first-innings deficit of 35 runs.

Michael Clarke, Damien Martyn and Simon Katich ensure the tourists consolidate their advantage - and then Glenn McGrath finishes with a nine-wicket match haul, leaving Pietersen (64no) as the only 'Englishman' standing.

#### SECOND TEST, EDGBASTON - ENGLAND WON BY TWO RUNS

A contest described in dispatches as the greatest in Ashes history.

The preface is perhaps the most telling moment of the whole series, McGrath's untimely collision with a stray cricket ball during his warm-up robbing Australia of their peerless pace bowler - and for good measure, Ricky Ponting mis-reads conditions by putting England in first on a good pitch.

Pietersen's third consecutive Test half-century is one of a trio in an England first innings which is indebted to a hundred opening stand between Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Strauss.

Concerns over the form of Matthew Hayden grow when he falls for a first-ball duck as Australia finish 99 runs in arrears on first innings.

Six second-innings wickets for Shane Warne hassle England out for only 182 second time round, despite Andrew Flintoff's 73, and the consensus is that Australia will prevail again.

Instead, Flintoff ekes out four more wickets. Yet after Warne, Lee and Michael Kasprovicz have added 104 between them for the ninth and



**TON OF JOY:** Pietersen celebrates his hundred.

10th wickets, the Australians need only three more runs to sneak over the line - only for Harmison to have the number 11 gloving a leg-side delivery behind to Geraint Jones to give England a famously narrow win.

The sight of Flintoff consoling a dejected Lee becomes the image of the summer.

#### THIRD TEST, OLD TRAFFORD - DRAWN

Another epic.

Michael Vaughan produces a vintage innings of 166 to help his team to 444, after winning an important toss.

Warne - with his 600th wicket under his belt in the shape of Trescothick - produces a rear-guard 90 with the bat but cannot stop the Aussies trailing by almost 150 runs following a six-wicket return from reverse-swing king Simon Jones.

Warne's 'rabbit' Strauss makes a mockery of that tag with a second-innings hundred, helping England to declare on 280 for six.

But in front of a sell-out Monday crowd, a tour-de-force 156 from Australia captain Ponting is just enough to help his team hang on for a draw - Lee and a fit-again McGrath holding on with one wicket standing.

#### FOURTH TEST, TRENT BRIDGE - ENGLAND WON BY THREE WICKETS

A tight and controversial win which puts England in an enviable position. Flintoff's first-innings hundred - and an important stand with wicketkeeper Jones - helps to put 477 on the board.

Five more wickets from Jones as England run through the Aussies for only 218 - and, in the unaccustomed position of following on, Ponting loses his cool after being run out by substitute fielder Gary Pratt.

His team nonetheless manage to set England

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE

## The Ashes 2005 - ten years on

# 'I can never forget

**WHEN he looks back on the 2005 Ashes a decade on, there is a twinkle in Ashley Giles' eye; an electricity that crackles at the very memory.**

As a player, Giles was the definitive solid citizen - a left-arm spinner without a mystery delivery who relied on nagging consistency rather than exotic turn.

But 10 years ago he found himself in the eye of English cricket's perfect storm, one of the men who helped down an "immortal" Australia side packed with greats and catapulted cricket into the circus of celebrity.

Giles may not have had the cross-over star power of Andrew Flintoff or the bar-emptying brilliance of Kevin Pietersen, but he soon found that being an Ashes-winning Englishman carried significant kudos.

"After that series something changed...you could walk down the street and see kids wearing our shirts rather than football shirts, cricket was front-page news," he said.

"I don't think I ever felt like a celebrity but something definitely changed and from that point on, every one of us has been more recognised.

"Even when I was coaching England for so many people I was still the 'King of Spain' from 2005.

"Wherever you go, if you give it time it always comes back to that.

"Back in the days before that we were quite free to go out for a pint and not get noticed and I don't think that's ever quite been the same since.

"Even for those who came in after us - it altered the profile of the game, the rules had changed."

When England's bowling attack from 2005 is mentioned, it is easy to start and end with the four-man pace arsenal of Flintoff, Steve Harmison, Matthew Hoggard and Simon Jones - as effective a unit as this country has ever fielded.

But one man who never undersells Giles' role is his captain Michael Vaughan.

His bald stats might not tell a great tale, 10 wickets at 57.80 and 155 runs at 19.37, but Giles was unflinchingly reliable for Vaughan, plugging an end when the job was required and chipping in with important breakthroughs when the Australians took liberties.

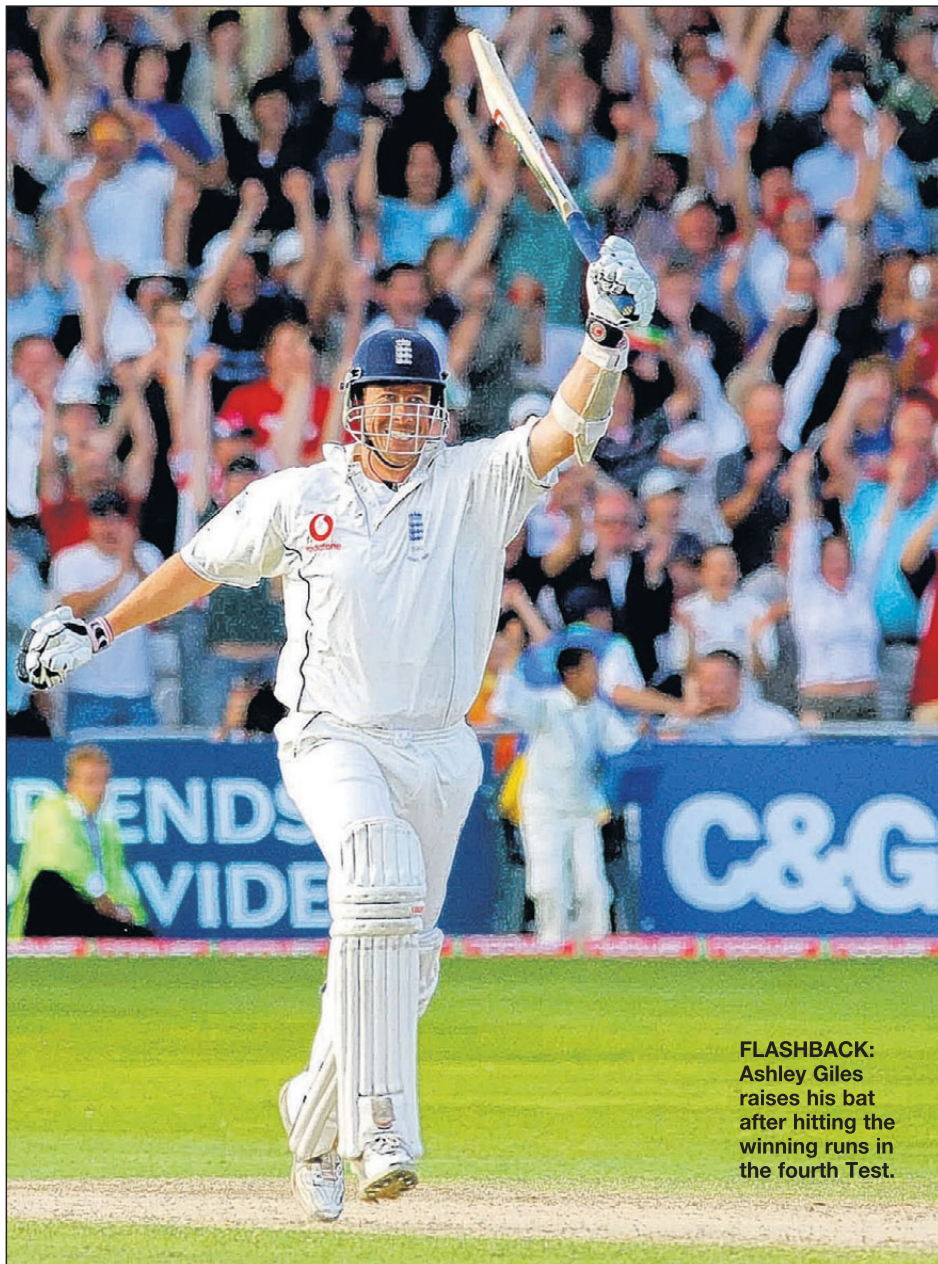
It should be noted that Giles accounted for each of the tourists' much-vaunted top seven on at least one occasion - Justin Langer, Matthew Hayden, Ricky Ponting, Michael Clarke, Damien Martyn, Simon Katich and Adam Gilchrist making for a neat set of scalps.

He may still be more fondly remembered for the most beloved seven not out in England's long history, though, having scored the winning runs in the nail-biting decisive Test at Trent Bridge.

"That's the one people talk about. I think my 59 at The Oval was a more important innings but Trent Bridge was the winning runs in the Ashes, which feels pretty good.

"I still have that bat on the wall at home.

"I was 13 when we'd last beaten Australia in 1986/87 and I was the oldest player in the team in 2005, so it was a



**FLASHBACK:** Ashley Giles raises his bat after hitting the winning runs in the fourth Test.

long period of pain for English cricket.

"For that reason it will always be the pinnacle for me.

"It was also the last chance to take down that particular team.

"We were told they were immortal but we had a feeling we could do it.

"We've won a couple of Ashes series since then but we'll struggle to have a series as good and as competitive as that one."

2005 Ashes winner Matthew Hoggard has also recalled his memories of that remarkable series.

Q: Does it feel like 10 years since you helped reclaim the Ashes for England?

MH: "Sometimes it feels a million years ago and others it seems like yesterday. I've relived it a few times but I've never watched the DVDs back.

"It's all still up fresh in my mind, everything."

Q: What is the most defining single memory?

MH: "The biggest thing that sticks out is day one, first Test at Lord's and the roar from the Long Room.

"Usually the MCC members give you a nice polite ripple. In 2005 it was like

being in a football stand.

"We all looked at each other and said 'what's going on here?'

Q: Why did that series crossover beyond traditional cricket fans?

MH: "The rugby wasn't on, the football wasn't on and the back pages were ours. Even at The Open they had the cricket scores up on the leaderboard.

"A lot of it was about terrestrial TV, so everyone had access to it, and of course it was that mighty Australian side, the legends - a frightening team.

"It was Australia, the team of the decade." *cont on right hand drop.*

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# The Ashes 2005 - ten years on *that great series'*



**FLASHBACK:** England celebrate reclaiming the Ashes in the memorable summer of 2005.

## Rekindling spirit of 2005

**MILLIONS of English cricket supporters are willing their team to revisit the spirit of 2005 this summer, on the 10th anniversary of one of the greatest of all Ashes series.**

They crave a re-enactment, with an almost entirely new cast list of course, of the individual and collective battles which put the England-Australia epic centre stage for eight weeks and then came to a glorious conclusion at The Oval.

In one significant element already, though, a repeat showing is decidedly not on this country's partisan wish-list.

The 2015 Ashes have begun with English victory in the first Test by 169 runs in Cardiff.

In 2005, the opening act went Australia's way by a thumping 239 runs.

In both instances, the beaten side took 20 wickets but fell short with the bat.

Ten years ago, England's disappointment at Lord's was merely the preface to the most memorable of

fightbacks – starting at Edgbaston where the outcome was thrillingly in doubt until Brett Lee and Michael Kasproutz's 10th-wicket stand was broken at last on the fourth morning with the tourists just three runs short of victory.

The image of the summer, more so even than the excesses of England's open-top bus-parade celebrations through London the next month, was Andrew Flintoff's consoling arm on the still unbeaten Lee's shoulder after Australia had come so close to going 2-0 up.

After two more wonderful Test matches at Old Trafford and Trent Bridge, it came down to the Oval denouement and an outpouring of public admiration and affection for the team Michael Vaughan had led to such an overdue series success against the old enemy.

This year's combatants will be back in Birmingham soon enough, for the third Test on July 29.

Before then, though, Alastair Cook and Michael Clarke's men head for the home of cricket this week.

As that second instalment of this

particular battle for the urn started at Lord's a few days ago, those millions dreaming that 2015 will deliver at least a passable impersonation of 2005, may be just a little wary about what they wish for.

Too faithful a reprise will bring not more heartening success for Cook's aggressive 'new' England, alongside Australian coach Trevor Bayliss, but a series-leveller - Edgbaston-style - for the tourists.

An extension of the analogy would perhaps again grip a nation, but not this one, if it resulted in Australia's first Ashes win in England at their fourth attempt since 2001.

The backdrop to 2005 was unique, of course, in fact, had grown up with it since the last success in 1986/87. The country had become used to failure against Australia; a generation, in fact, had grown up with it since the last success in 1986/87.

By the time the first Test began at Lord's, a much wider public confidence was shattered too by the 7/7 bomb attacks on the London transport system which claimed 52 lives.

In that horrific context, the start of an Ashes series two weeks later was an attempt for many at return to a normality no one was sure would be possible.

The modern world dictates that now, as then, major centres remain on high alert for atrocious events.

As the shock waned in 2005, cricket was allowed to fulfil an extra need for many - and Flintoff, Lee, Shane Warne, Vaughan et al quickly began to elevate a series which was accessible to all on terrestrial television.

Many of the above factors, thankfully or regrettably, do not prevail 10 years on.

But there is plenty of star quality to light up another summer.

Cook has earmarked Ben Stokes as this year's Flintoff, on the pitch and in the celebrations he hopes will follow next month.

The show is already under way with advantage England after Joe Root's man-of-the-match batting in Wales.

Is it too much to hope it stays that way, just with a few more edge-of-the-seat twists and turns borrowed en route from 2005?

from facing page

Q: Was it the best Ashes ever?

MH: "For me, yes. And people who know a lot more about cricket and have watched a lot more Test cricket than I have have told me it's up there with the best series there's ever been."

Q: When did you start to believe you could rattle the Australians?

MH: "We lost the opener at Lord's obviously but I remember when Harmy (Steve Harmison) hit Ricky Ponting in the helmet and nobody went to see him. Justin Langer went ape at the other end, called us all the names under sun asking if we were at war."

"We bowled them out for under 200 and there was a feeling of 'we can do this'."

Q: What are your memories of your match-winning eighth-wicket stand with Ashley Giles at Trent Bridge?

"We were chasing 129 and I just knew there was going to be a twist. True to form, we still needed 12 when I went out."

"Watching Brett Lee doing his thing, Shane Warne bowling like a dream... I was so nervous."

"I was in the physio room shaking like a leaf, because in the dressing room there's nothing you can do."

"When I got down the stairs and through the crowd I was still shaking but as soon as I got on the grass I was okay."

"The destiny was in my hands and I wasn't just watching."

Q: How were the parties afterwards?

MH: "We enjoyed ourselves, let's put it that way. We were maybe the last lot before it became really, really professional all the way up."

"We shared the changing rooms, the Aussies came in after Edgbaston and shared a beer, which set the trend for the rest of the series."

"We weren't out getting sozzled every night but we did go out and enjoy the wins, rather famously after the series was settled!"



**GREAT MEMORY:** Ashley Giles and Matthew Hoggard after England's win at Trent Bridge.

### The 2005 ashes recalled

from facing page

a tricky 129 to win, and Lee and Warne make it as awkward as they can. England lose seven wickets and nerves and frayed but Ashley Giles and Matthew Hoggard see them over the winning line.

#### FIFTH TEST, THE OVAL - DRAWN

A rain-affected contest which hints at the drama of its predecessors but in the end settles for delivering the glory of a home series victory.

England fail to make the most of wonderful batting conditions after winning the toss and make a below-par 373, despite a timely hundred from Strauss.

Australia's hopes of establishing a significant mid-match advantage are hindered by rain and bad light - and in the end, even after centuries for openers Justin Langer and a back-to-form Hayden, Flintoff's second five-wicket Test haul gives England an unlikely if narrow first-innings lead.

England run into danger of a last-day collapse to open the door for Australia until Pieterse, dropped by his then Hampshire colleague Warne at slip on only 15, makes a match-saving and series-clinching maiden hundred.

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